A

COLLECTION

OF

FAMILY PRAYERS

FROM THE

DEVOTIONAL WRITINGS

OF

BAXTER, HENRY, WILLISON, BENNETT, WATTS, DODDRIDGE,

AND OTHERS.

WITH

VARIOUS OCCASIONAL FORMS.

SELECTED AND REVISED

BY SAMUEL PALMER.

THE THIRD EDITION.

CORNELIUS—*a devout man, and one that feared God,* with all his HOUSE, *which gave alms to the people, and* prayed to God alway. ACTS x. 2.

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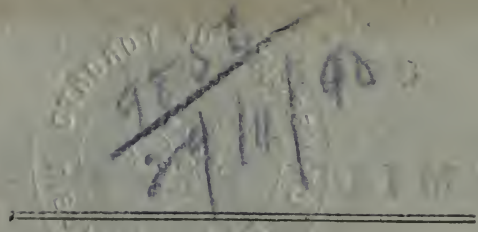

——" There is many a family which would have lived to this day without paying homage to the God of nature and grace in social worship, which has been enabled, by the help of pious FORMS, to maintain daily religion in the house, and the children and the servants of the family have been trained up to constant devotion. And God forbid that any house among Christians should be prayerless, since these devout compositions are so easy to be had.—I wish this sort of devotional writings were multiplied among the Dissenters."

WATTS's *Miscellanies*, p. 211.

PREFACE.

THAT Family-prayer is an indispensible duty, and an important means of religion, are points which are here taken for granted. If this work should fall into the hands of any who need to be convinced of either, they are referred to the many excellent discourses which have been published upon the subject; particularly Mr. HENRY's *Church in the House*; Dr. DODDRIDGE's *Address to the Master of a Family*; Mr. JOB ORTON's and Dr. STENNETT's *Discourses on Family Worship*.

Among the many excuses commonly urged for the omission of this duty (which in the above publications are fully answered)

swered) one of the most frequent is, the want of ability or courage to pray in the presence of others. Where this is the case, the most natural and effectual answer is—"Make use of forms." The lawfulness and expediency of so doing, I shall not attempt to prove. It has been admitted by the best of our divines, several of whom have published forms of devotion for the use of families. If any should think it better not to worship God in their houses at all, than to adopt precomposed prayers, they are not to be reasoned with. The absurdity of such a pretence, the reader may see exposed in Dr. WATTS's recommendatory preface to Mr. BOURNE's *Christian's Family Prayer-Book.*

Very far am I from discouraging the use of extemporary prayer: it has undoubtedly some advantages peculiar to itself; and I have known many common Christians possessed of such a talent for it

it as exceeded the best forms which have ever been published. But some serious persons are destitute of this gift. And it must be confessed, that others who can and do pray extempore, would better promote the edification of their families, if they were, occasionally at least, to adopt some good printed forms.

It is a happiness that we have so many volumes of family-prayers, both by Churchmen and Dissenters, suited to the different tastes and sentiments of different persons. There is yet, however, room for more, as variety is pleasing and edifying. There seemed particularly to be a want of further assistance for Protestant Dissenters of an evangelical cast; several of whom have expressed some wish for a publication of this kind, and have encouraged me to attempt it. I thought that I could not better answer their end, than by collecting together a number of the excellent forms which had

been published, in different volumes, by some of their most favourite writers. Those by Mr. *Willison* are inserted at the particular request of a pious lady*, who greatly encouraged this publication.

It may be proper to apprize the reader what liberties have been taken with these composures. Several of them being too prolix are abridged. Sentences which were too long are divided; the construction of others rendered more easy; and some transposed. The phraseology is changed where it was thought improper, and a few words and sentences are in some places inserted, particularly to adapt the prayers to the case of families; several of them not being originally intended for family-prayers. This was especially requisite in regard to those taken from Dr. DODDRIDGE's *Rise and Progress*, in some

* The late Mrs. Thornton, of Clapham.

of which the introductions will be found entirely new.

As most of these forms might be thought too long for some families, there are crotchets inserted to denote what passages may be left out without injuring the connection. For the sake of variety the reader may occasionally adopt these passages, and mark others to be omitted.

The occasional prayers are new compositions, which are adapted to the most common occurrences, and which may easily be altered as circumstances vary. In all, great attention has been paid to plainness and simplicity, both of thought and expression.

On the whole, it is hoped this publication will be acceptable to such as esteem the writings of those ministers from whose works it is compiled; and it is particularly recommended to young Christians, and to families which have only a female head.

That God may bless it as the means of promoting the much neglected business of family religion, is the ardent prayer of the Editor.

S. P.

Hackney,
June 25, 1783.

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LORD'S DAY MORNING.

MOST gracious God and Father: It is good for us to draw near to Thee; O do thou draw nigh unto us!

We bless thee for the return of this morning light. Let the day-spring from on high visit our souls, and the sun of righteousness arise with healing under his wings. The light we see is the Lord's. This is the day which the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

[We bless thee that thou hast favoured us with thine holy sabbaths, and that we were early taught to put a difference between these and other days. Thanks be to thy name that our sacred opportunities are continued to us, and that we are not wishing in vain for these days of the Son of Man. Hosannah to the Son of David, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.]

O that we may be in the spirit on the Lord's day: That this may be indeed the sabbath of the Lord in our dwelling, and in our hearts: A sabbath of rest from sin, and of rest in God. Enable us, we pray thee, so to sanctify this day, that it may be made a means of our sanctification. Grant that, by resting from our worldly employments, our hearts may be more taken off from present things; and that, by employing our time in the worship of God, we may be led into a more experimental acquaintance with the work of heaven, and be made more meet for that blessed world.

While on this day we remember the great work of creation as finished, we give glory to thee, O God the Father almighty, the maker of heaven and earth.

[Thou madest all things by the word of thy power, and didst pronounce all very good; and they continue to this day according to thine ordinance. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive blessing, and honour, and glory and power, for thou

hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.]

O thou who didst at first command the light to shine out of darkness, shine this day into our hearts, and give us more of the light of the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ; and let us be thy workmanship, created anew in him unto good works.

With peculiar pleasure would we call to mind the resurrection of our exalted Redeemer from the dead, on the first day of the week, by which he was declared to be the Son of God with power, and is become the first fruits of them that slept. O that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may rise and walk in newness of life.

We bless thee that, when Jesus was glorified, the Holy Ghost was given to carry on his undertaking till his second coming, and that we have the promise that he shall abide with us for ever. We pray that the Spirit of him that raised up Christ from the dead, may dwell and rule

in us, to make us partakers of a new and divine nature.

We bless thee for thy holy word, which is a light to our feet and a lamp to our paths.

[Let us not receive this grace of God in vain, but teach us to value and understand that blessed book which was written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.]

Especially we bless thee for the great gospel record, "that God hath given to "us eternal life, and that this life is in "his Son." O may we receive it as a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation. May we have an interest in the mediation of thy Son; and grant that Christ may be made of God unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. [Being called into fellowship with him, and by faith united to him, may Christ live in us, and may we grow up into him, in all things, who is our head. Let us have the Spirit of Christ, so that it

it may appear we are his, and through him may we have eternal life.]

We bless thee for the new covenant made with us in Jesus Christ. May we fly for refuge to it, and take hold of it, as the hope set before us. O receive us graciously into the bonds of the covenant, and make us accepted in the Beloved.

Grant that our hearts may this day be filled with pleasing thoughts of Christ, and that great love wherewith he hath loved us. For his sake forgive all our sins, in thought, word, and deed; and let our lusts be mortified, that they may not be as clogs to hinder the ascent of our souls heavenwards.

We pray thee to assist us in all the religious services of this thine own holy day. Go with us to the solemn assembly; for if thy presence go not with us, wherefore should we go thither? Help us to draw nigh to thee with a true heart, in full assurance of faith. Meet us, O God, with a blessing. Grace thine own ordinances with that special presence of thine which thou hast promised where two or three

are met together in thy name. Help us against our manifold infirmities, and the sins that do most easily beset us in our attendance upon thee. Let thy word come with life and power upon our souls, and be as good seed sown in good soil, taking root and bringing forth fruit to thy praise. And let our prayers and praises be spiritual sacrifices, acceptable in thy sight through Jesus Christ. * *

We pray, O Lord, that thy presence may be in all Christian assemblies this day. Grace be with all them that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity; yea, let great grace be upon them all. Assist all the ministers of the gospel, that they may rightly divide the word of truth, and speak with plainness, fervour, and success. Bless thy servant on whose ministry we attend, and make him an instrument of much good to our souls.

In the chariot of the everlasting gospel may the great Redeemer ride forth triumphantly, conquering and to conquer, and let every thought be subdued into obedience unto him. May many be brought

brought to believe the report of the gospel, and to many may the arm of the Lord be revealed. May sinners be converted to thee, and thy saints be built up in knowledge, faith, holiness, and comfort, unto salvation.

Now the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing, for Christ Jesus' sake, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer, who hath taught us to pray,

Our Father, &c.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

O Eternal, ever-blessed, and glorious Lord God: Thou art over all, God blessed for ever; most wise and powerful, holy, just, and good. Thou art happy without us, and needest not our services; nor can our goodness extend unto thee; but without thee we are miserable; if thy goodness extend not unto us, we are for ever undone. We therefore entreat thy favour with our whole heart. Thy loving-kindness is better than life.

[We confess that we have forfeited thy favour, and are utterly unworthy of any blessing from thee. But we are emboldened to pray for mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.]

We bewail it before thee that, by the depravity of our hearts, we are become odious to thine holiness, and utterly unfit

to inherit the kingdom of God: and we confess that, by our many actual transgressions, we are become obnoxious to thy justice, and liable to thy wrath and curse.

[We have reason to blush and tremble in all our approaches to thee, the righteous and holy God. Even the iniquities of our holy things would be our ruin, if thou shouldst deal with us according to the demerit of them.]

But with thee, O God, there is mercy, and plenteous redemption. Blessed be thy name, thou hast graciously provided for all who truly repent, and believe the gospel, that the guilt of their sins shall be removed through the merit of thy Son's death, and the power of them broken by his Spirit. We rejoice in the assurance we have, that he is able to save to the uttermost them that come unto thee through him, seeing that he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Lord, we come to thee through this blessed mediator, earnestly desiring, by repentance and faith, to turn from the

world and the flesh, unto thee as our God and Father in Jesus Christ, as our ruler and our portion.

[We are sorry that we have offended thee; we are ashamed to think of our ungrateful and treacherous carriage towards thee. O look upon us in mercy, through thy well-beloved Son, on the merit of whose righteousness and death we rely, as the only ground of our hope towards thee. For his sake receive us graciously and love us freely. Heal our backslidings, and let not our iniquity be our ruin.]

We desire to have nothing more to do with sin; and pray as earnestly that the power of it may be subdued in us, as that the guilt of it may be removed from us. May the God of peace sanctify us wholly. Renew us in the spirit of our minds, and make us in every thing such as thou wouldst have us to be.

Mortify our pride, and clothe us with humility. Subdue our angry passions, and put on us the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price. Help us to crucify

the

the flesh, with all its affections and lusts; to keep under our body, and bring it into subjection to the laws of reason and religion; that we may always possess our vessel in sanctification and honour.

Let the love of the world be rooted out of us, and that covetousness which is idolatry; and let the love of God in Christ be shed abroad in our hearts, by the power of the Holy Ghost. Mortify in us all envy and hatred, malice and uncharitableness; and engage us to love one another with a pure heart fervently, as becomes the followers of the blessed Jesus, who has given us this as his new commandment.

We pray thee to rectify all our mistakes. If in any thing of moment we be in an error, discover it to us, and let the Spirit of truth lead us into all truth. May we know the truth as it is in Jesus: the truth which is according to godliness. Give us that good understanding which they have that do thy commandments.

Convince us more effectually, we pray thee, of the vanity of the world, and its

insufficiency to make us happy; of the vileness of sin, and its tendency to make us miserable: of the worth of our souls, and the awfulness of that everlasting state, on the borders of which we are standing; and make us serious and diligent in our preparation for it.

May we labour less for the meat which perisheth, and more for that which endureth to everlasting life. May we be governed by that faith which is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. May we use the world so as not to abuse it, knowing that the world, and the fashion of it, passeth away, and we are passing away with it.

[O let thy grace be mighty in us to prepare us for that great change, which will shortly, and may suddenly, come; which will remove us from a state of trial to that of retribution; and do thou at length make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.]

And prepare us, O Lord, we beseech thee, for whatever we may meet with between this and the grave. We know not

what is before us, but thou knowest; and we desire chearfully to leave ourselves in thy hands, who orderest all things well. We beg of thee to fit us, by thy grace, for all the services, and all the sufferings to which thou mayest call us. Arm us against every temptation, and help us at all times, and in all conditions, to glorify God, to keep a good conscience, and to be found in the way of our duty, that we may maintain our hope and joy in Christ, and have a bright believing prospect of eternal life.

[*Here bring in the Intercession, when there is time for it*, P. 15.]

Bless abundantly all the members of this family, and make us blessings to each other. Whether parents or children, masters or servants, old or young; help us faithfully to discharge the duties of our several stations, in an honourable, acceptable, and useful manner; and give us all a happy meeting at last in the house eternal in the heavens.

We

We bless thee, gracious God, for the continued comforts of life, and particularly for all the mercies of this thine own holy day. How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! A day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Bless the word which we have this day heard, both to us and to all that attended upon it. Hear the prayers we have offered; accept our praises, and forgive whatever thy pure eye hath seen amiss in our performances. * *

Take us under thy protection this night, and enable us to close the day with thee, that we may lie down in peace, and our sleep may be sweet. Be with us through the ensuing week; enable us to carry into it something of this day's enjoyments; that we may be the better fitted for another sabbath, if we shall live to see another; and grant that by all the means we enjoy on earth, we may be made meet for the everlasting sabbath above, when time and days shall be no more. [O help us to close this and every sabbath, with the

joyful

joyful expectation of Christ's second coming, and of our resurrection to a blessed immortality.]

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God and our Saviour, be honour and glory, dominion and praise, henceforth and for ever. Amen.

A General Intercession.

WE humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, to accomplish all that thou hast promised concerning thy Church in the latter days. Let the earth be filled with thy glory. Let the fulness of the Gentiles be brought in, and let all Israel be saved.

Propagate the gospel in all parts of the British empire. Let the enlargement of trade and commerce contribute to the enlargement of thy church. Let the kingdom of Christ, in all places, be erected upon the ruins of Satan's kingdom. Hasten the downfall of the man of sin, and let primitive christianity, pure religion, and undefiled

undefiled before God even the Father, be revived and made to flourish wherever the gospel is sent. Let the power of godliness prevail among all that have the form of it.

May the wars of the nations end in the peace of the church, and the convulsions and revolutions of states and kingdoms, issue in the advancement of the kingdom of God among men: that kingdom which cannot be moved.

We pray that Great-Britain and Ireland may flourish. Let thy providence be as a wall of fire round about us, and thy gospel the glory in the midst of us. Be gracious to our sovereign the king; protect his person, guide his counsels, and prosper his government, for the public good. Bless the privy-counsellors, the nobility, the judges and magistrates of the land; make them faithful to their trust, and serviceable to the best interests of the nation.

Bless all the ministers of thy holy word. Make them burning and shining lights: faithful to Christ and the souls of men.

Unite

Unite them and thy people together in truth and love. Pour out upon them a healing spirit; a spirit of charity, forbearance, and condescension. With one consent may they all study to promote the interest of our great Master, and the common salvation of precious souls.

Prosper, we pray thee, the trade of the nation; guard our coasts; disappoint the devices of our enemies, and preserve the public peace. Bless the fruits of the earth; continue our plenty; abundantly bless our provisions, and satisfy our poor with bread. Preserve the health of the nation, and delight to dwell among us and to do us good.

We pray for all our friends and relatives, that they may be the objects of thy providential care, and enriched with the blessings of thy heavenly grace. O that none of our friends may be enemies to God! Bless the rising generation, and let them be a seed to serve thee. Let thy work, O Lord, appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

Finally,

Finally, we recommend to thy tender compassion the sick and afflicted, the poor and needy, the tempted and disconsolate, the widows and fatherless. Be thou a present help unto them in every time of trouble. Do good to them that are good; to all the upright in heart.

Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

N.B. *On a Communion-Sabbath, introduce at the places marked ** what is provided for the purpose in the Occasional Prayers.*

MONDAY MORNING.

O Lord our God, we desire with all humility and reverence to adore thee, as a being infinitely blessed and glorious; who hast all perfection in and of thyself, and who art the fountain of all being, life, and blessedness. It is an unspeakable privilege that we have liberty of access unto thee through Jesus Christ, and have leave to call thee our Father in him. O look upon us now, and be merciful to us, as thou usest to be to those that love thy name. May we all account our daily worship of thee the most needful part of our daily business, and the most pleasant of our daily comforts.

Thou art the God of all the families of Israel: be thou the God of our family. And grant that, whatever others do, we and ours may always serve the Lord. And do thou cause thy blessing to rest upon our habitation, from day to day, and

from

from year to year. Lord bless thou us and we shall be blessed indeed.

We humbly thank thee for the mercies of the night past, and of this morning. We have laid us down and slept, and have awoke again, because thou hast sustained us. Thanks be to God, that no plague has come nigh our dwelling; but that we are spared to see the light, and enjoy the comforts, of another day. It is of thy mercies, O Lord, that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail not: they are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness.

We confess that we are guilty before thee. We have sinned and come short of thy glory.

Through the corruption of our natures we are bent to backslide from thee. We are backward to good, and prone to evil continually. Vain thoughts too often lodge within us, lying down and rising up, which defile or disquiet our minds, and keep out the thoughts of God and things divine. We are too apt to burden

ourselves

ourselves with that care which thou hast encouraged us to cast upon thee.]

We are greatly wanting in the duties of our particular relations.

[Too often are we the occasion of folly and sin to each other, instead of provoking one another to love and to good works.]

We are cold and defective in our love to thee our God; weak in our desires towards thee; unsteady in our walking with thee; and often out of frame for thy service.

O Lord, forgive us all our sins, and be at peace with us, through him who died to make peace, and ever lives to make intercession.

[There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? Lord, let not us take up with any thing in this world as our portion: Lift up thou the light of thy countenance upon us, and that shall put gladness into our hearts more than they have whose earthly store increaseth.]

To thy care, O our God, we commit ourselves this day: Compass us about with

with thy favour as with a shield; preserve our going out, and our coming in.

[Our bodies, and all our worldly affairs, we commit to the conduct of thy good providence, and chearfully submit to its disposal. Preserve our health; prosper us in all our lawful employments, and give us comfort in all our worldly enjoyments. Our souls, and all their more momentous concerns, we commend to the government of thy Spirit. O let thy grace be sufficient for us, and work in us both to will and to do that which is good, of thine own good pleasure. Enable us to do the work of this and every day in its proper season. May we acknowledge thee in all our ways, and do thou direct our steps.]

Lord, keep us from all evil; but especially from the evil of sin. Give us the rule over our own spirits. Let us not be provoked to wrath, or speak unadvisedly with our lips. Dispose us to live together in peace and holy love; and may the God of love and peace be with us.

Make us conscientious in all our dealings, as becomes those who see thine eye

ever

ever upon us. Arm us against every temptation; keep us in the way of duty; and preserve us in thy fear all the day long.

In every doubtful case let our way be made plain before us; and give us that wisdom which is profitable to direct. Let integrity and uprightness preserve us, for we wait on thee.

Prepare us for all the events of this day; for we know not what a day may bring forth: And make us to stand compleat in thy whole will. May we be willing to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily, and follow Christ.

[Sanctify all our crosses and disappointments to us; teach us to submit to thy will in them, and let us find it good for us to be afflicted, that we may be partakers of thy holiness.] Lord, fit us for death, judgment, and eternity. Give us grace to live, every day, as those who know not but it may be our last.

Lord, plead thine own cause in the world. Build up thy church, and erect the throne of the Redeemer on the ruins

of

of Satan's kingdom. Let the reformed churches be more reformed. Support and deliver those that suffer for righteousness sake. Do good to us in these nations. Bless the king, and all in authority. Guide the public councils, and over-rule all affairs for thine own glory. Let peace and truth prevail in our day, and be preserved to those that shall come after us.

Be gracious to all our relations, friends, and neighbours, according to their necessities. Supply the wants of all thy people. Dwell in the families of them that fear thee, and call upon thy name. Forgive our enemies, and give us a right and charitable spirit towards them and all men.

Visit, comfort, and relieve the afflicted. Succour the tempted; support the oppressed; and give joy to those that mourn in Zion. Deal with us and our family according to the tenor of the everlasting covenant, which is well ordered in all things and sure; which is all our salvation, and all our desire.

Now, blessed be God for all his gifts, both of nature and grace; for those that

concern this life, and that which is to come; especially for Jesus Christ, the fountain and foundation of all.

Pardon our imperfections; accept our services; and grant us an answer of peace, for his sake who died for us and rose again; who hath taught us to pray,

Our Father, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

MOST holy, blessed, and glorious God; whose we are, and whom we are bound to serve: Thou madest us, and not we ourselves; therefore we are not our own, but thine.

[Thou art the great benefactor of the whole creation. Thou givest to all life and breath, and all things. Thou art *our* benefactor: the God that hast fed us, and kept us, all our life long unto this day. Having obtained help of thee, we continue hitherto the monuments of thy mercy.]

Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice. Through thy good hand upon us, we have closed another day. After the various employments of it, we are come together this evening to mention the loving-kindness of the Lord, and the praises of our God; whose mercy endureth for ever.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with his benefits, even the God of our salvation.

[We bless thee for the ministry of good angels about us, and for the serviceableness of the inferior creatures to us.]

We praise thee for our bodily health and ease; for comfort in our relations, and places of abode; that thou hast not made the wilderness our habitation, nor the barren land our dwelling. We thank thee for our share in the public tranquillity; and especially for the continued use of our reason, and the peace of our consciences.

Above all, we bless thee for Jesus Christ, and for his mediation between God and man; for the covenant of grace made with us in him, and for the exceeding great and precious promises and privileges of it; for the throne of thy grace, and for the liberty of access to it, at all times, in the name of Jesus, and for the hope of eternal life through him.

We confess, O Lord, that we have sinned against thee, and still daily come

short of thy glory. O God, thou knowest our foolishness, and our sins are not hid from thee.

[We mispend our time, we neglect our duty, we follow after lying vanities, and forsake our own mercies. We daily offend in thought, word, and deed. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou us from secret faults.]

Give us repentance for our sins of daily infirmity: Make us duly sensible of the evil and danger of them, and let the blood of Christ thy Son cleanse us from them. Grant that we may lie down this night at peace with God, and let our souls repose in thee as our rest.

We commit ourselves to thy care; may we dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

[Make thou a hedge of protection about our house, and about all that we have, that no evil may befal us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling.] Refresh our bodies with rest; undisturbed with distrustful cares, or disquieting fears; but especially let

let our souls be refreshed with thy love, and the light of thy countenance; for thy benignity is better than life.

[When we awake may we be still with thee; may we remember thee upon our beds, and meditate upon thee in the night-watches.]

Restore us to another day in safety; prepare us for the duties and the events of it; and by all the supports and comforts of life let our bodies be fitted to assist our souls in thy service. And do thou enable us to glorify thee, both with our bodies and with our spirits which are thine.

As every day brings us nearer our end, Lord teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

[By putting off our garments, and lying down to sleep, may we be reminded of putting off the body, and sleeping the sleep of death; thus may we be dying daily, expecting and preparing for our great change; that so when we come to die, it may be no surprize or terror to us, but we may with comfort resign our spirits into thy hands, knowing in whom we have trusted.]

Prepare us for whatever is appointed for us in life. Do us good by all thy providences, whether comfortable or afflictive: Help us to accommodate ourselves to them, and by all bring us nearer to thyself, and fit us for the enjoyment of thee in a better world.

Lord, let our family be blessed in him in whom all the believing families of the earth are blessed. Give us health and prosperity, and all needful temporal blessings; but especially let our souls prosper and be in health. Let all that belong to us belong to Christ; that we who dwell together on earth, may be together for ever with the Lord.

[Look with pity upon a lost world. Set up Christ's throne where Satan's seat is. Send the gospel where it is not, and make it successful where it is. Let it be mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strong holds. Cause the church of Christ to flourish greatly in all places. Suffer not the rod of the wicked to rest upon the lot of the righteous.]

May

May our native country be still the care of thy Providence: In the peace thereof may we have peace. Let glory dwell in our land, and upon all the glory let there be a defence. Rule in the hearts of our rulers, and make them public blessings. May those who are in places of public trust, be faithful to the public interest; and may those who bear the sword, be a terror to evil-doers, a protection and praise to such as do well.

Own thy ministers in their work: Give them skill, ability, and zeal, to help souls to heaven. May the rising generation be such as thou wilt own, and as shall do more and better service in their day than has been done in ours. Comfort and relieve all that are in poverty and affliction. Teach us to sympathize with them, and dispose us to do all we can for their relief.

And do thou for us abundantly above what we are able to ask or think, through Jesus Christ, the Lord our righteousness. To Him, with the Father and Eternal Spirit, be glory and praise now and for ever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

GLORIOUS Jehovah! Thou hast thy being of thyself, and thy happiness in thyself alone. We have our being from thee, and our happiness is only in thee. It is therefore both our duty and our interest to seek unto thee, to implore thy favour, and to give unto thee the glory due to thy name.

We confess we are utterly unworthy of the honour, and unable for the work, of communion with thee. But we come to thee in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is worthy, and depend upon the assistances of thy blessed Spirit to work all our work in us.

Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works; and thou art continually doing us good, though we are evil and unthankful. We have rested and are refreshed, when many have been tossed to and fro till the dawning of the day.

day. We have a safe and quiet habitation, while many are forced to wander and lie exposed. One day tells another, and one night certifies to another, that thou art good, and never failest those that seek thee, and trust in thee. We thankfully own thy goodness to us, and acknowledge ourselves to be less than the least of all the mercy and truth thou hast shewed us.

Above all, we bless thee for the gifts of thy grace to lost and miserable sinners in and through thy dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We praise thee that, having laid down his life to make atonement for sin, he rose again for our justification, that he might bring in an everlasting righteousness. We bless thee that our eyes see the light, and our ears hear the joyful sound of redemption by him, and of that life and immortality which are brought to light by the gospel. Glory be to God in the highest that there is on earth peace, and good-will towards men.

[We praise thee that we are favoured with the holy scriptures, in which the dis-

coveries of thy mercy are contained; that they are preserved to us pure and entire, and that we have them in a language we understand.]

O grant us wisdom and grace, that we may rightly understand the gospel, firmly believe it, and chearfully obey it; that so we may be savingly interested in the blessings which it reveals.

[We pray that, being justified by faith, we may have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ; whom thou hast set forth to be a propitiation for sin, that thou mayest be just, and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus.] Through him, who was made sin for us, though he knew no sin, let us sinners be accepted as righteous. And as Christ died for our sins, we pray that we may be dying daily to them. May we also experience in our souls the power and virtue of his resurrection: May we rise with him from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; from the dust of this world to a holy, spiritual, divine, and heavenly life.

Help

Help us to set our affections on things above, and not on things that are on earth. O that time, and the things of time, may be as nothing to us in comparison with eternity, and its infinite realities! Give us grace, we pray thee, to look up to the other world with such a holy concern and realizing faith, that we may look down upon this world with a holy contempt and indifference, as those that must be here but a little while, and must exist in some unknown region for ever.

[May we rejoice as though we rejoiced not; and weep as though we wept not; and buy as though we possessed not; and use the world as not abusing it. Considering the vanity and uncertainty of all things here, may we be holding ourselves in readiness for our departure hence; that when we fail, we may be received into everlasting habitations.]

Give us grace, we pray thee, to live a life of communion with thee, both in providences and ordinances, and a life of dependance upon thee; at all times trusting in thy power, providence, and promises,

and pouring out our hearts before thee. Enable us also to live a life of devotedness to thee; and of complacency in thee. May we set the Lord always before us; aim at thy glory as our highest end; and make religion not only our chief business, but our highest pleasure.

We beseech thee preserve us in our integrity to our dying day. O may we never forsake or forget thee! but with purpose of heart may we cleave unto the Lord, and not count life itself dear to us, so that we may finish our course with honour and joy.

Let thy good providence order all the circumstances of our dying, so as may best befriend our comfortable removal hence; and while we are here, make us wiser and better every day; more weaned from this world, more willing to leave it, and more fit for another and better.

[May our last days be our best days; our last works our best works; and our last comforts our best comforts.]

Bless us, O Lord, as a family, with every thing suited to our several circumstances.

Give

Give us all wisdom to know the duties of our several characters and stations, and make us faithful in the performance of them. Be gracious to all that are related to us, or connected with us. Pity and relieve the children of affliction, and be a present help to all thy people in every season of distress. To thy providential care we commit ourselves and each other for the day ensuing. Preserve us from every danger, fortify us against every temptation, assist us in every duty, and graciously accept us in thy dear Son; to whom with the Father, and the Eternal Spirit, be glory and praise now and for ever. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O GOD, the infinite eternal spirit; most perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness; though mortal eyes cannot behold thee, nor any created understanding comprehend thee, thou art ever present with us, and seest the secrets of our hearts. All our sins, and all our wants, are known to thee: But thou wisely requirest our confessions, as the exercise of our repentance, and our petitions and thanksgivings, as the expressions of our desires, dependance and gratitude. We confess our unfitness for such converse with thee. O thou, whose mercy inviteth miserable sinners to come unto thee, by the new and living way; meet us not in thy justice, as a consuming fire, but accept us in thy righteous and beloved Son.

Thou, who art the creator of all things, didst make us in thine image, to know, love,

love, and serve thee. But sin hath corrupted all our powers, and perverted them from the ends for which we were made. [Thou art our owner and sovereign, but we have rebelled against thee, and lived as if we were at our own disposal, obeying our carnal wills and appetites. Thou art goodness and love itself, and the author of all that is good and amiable. We ought to have loved and delighted in thee above all; but our hearts have been estranged from thee, and have delighted in worldly vanities. Thou hast made us capable of endless glory, and called us to seek it; but we have lived as if we believed it not: we have despised the joys of heaven, and preferred the short-lived pleasures of sense.]

We ought to have served thee with our whole hearts, and to have employed our time, our thoughts, our tongues, and all our powers, for thy glory and the good of men. But alas, we have often trifled in thy worship, and hypocritically served thee with our lips alone, and have taken thy dreadful name in vain. Our thoughts have been guilty of vanity, folly, and impurity;

purity; our tongues, of idle, wrathful, and injurious words. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves, nor sought each others welfare, temporal or spiritual, with that zeal and affection which our relation to each other, and thy love to us, required. We have unprofitably abused thy talents, and done but little good in the world, in comparison with what we might have done.

And though thy wonderful mercy hath given us a Redeemer, and in him such a remedy for our sins, as is the astonishment of men and angels, we have been chargeable with unbelief, and a stupid neglect of this great salvation. [How little have we been affected with the love and sufferings of a Saviour; and how have we made light of Christ and his gospel! Justly mightest thou deny us the mercy which we have so lightly esteemed.]

But deal with us, O Lord, not according to our deserts, but according to our necessity, and thy great goodness. Where our sin hath abounded, let thy grace much more abound.

[Thou

[Thou gavest mankind a Saviour when we were thine enemies; and it is thy great design to glorify thy wonderful love and mercy by means of our unworthiness and misery: to forgive much, that we may love much.

Thou soughtest us, when we sought not thee: it is thine own command that we seek thee and beg thy mercy; and thou givest us the very desires which we pour out before thee. Should we, therefore, doubt of thy willingness to forgive penitent believing souls, we should greatly wrong the riches of thy grace.] There is enough in the merit of thy Son's obedience and sacrifice to expiate our guilt, and justify penitent believers in thy sight. We would therefore encourage ourselves in the Lord our God, and chearfully rely upon thy pardoning mercy.

And while, in the exercise of faith, we earnestly implore the forgiveness of our past sins, we desire chearfully to return to thee, in the way of our duty, and humbly give up ourselves to thee as our God, our Father, our Saviour, and our Sanctifier; beseeching

beseeching thee to receive us upon the terms of thy covenant of grace. Renew and sanctify us by thy Spirit. Take from us the heart of stone, and give us hearts of flesh. Impart to us a divine and heavenly nature, and transform us into the image of thy holiness. Enable us to devote ourselves, and all that thou givest us, entirely to thee as thine own. Bring all the powers of our souls and bodies into a full subjection to thy government.

Shed abroad thy love in our hearts, by the power of the Holy Ghost. Shew us more of thine infinite goodness and perfections, and the wonderful mercy which thou hast given us in Christ; and let the beams of thy love so fire our breasts, that we may love thee with all our hearts and souls, with all our mind and strength; and may taste the beginning of the felicity of heaven; where we shall love thee more than we can now desire or conceive.

Give us more of the spirit of adoption; possess us with all child-like affections towards thee as our reconciled God and Father in Christ. Teach us to make thee our ultimate

ultimate end, and to seek thy glory in all we do. And let thy exceeding love and mercy to us, engage us to love one another; to love all mankind; and even our enemies themselves. May we ever be ready to pardon the injuries we may receive, and to do good to all, to the utmost of our power.

Keep us, we beseech thee, from every thing in our words and actions by which we should dishonour thy name, and grieve thy Spirit. Quicken and animate us in every duty, whether personal, relative, or divine. And help us to spend this transitory life in a diligent preparation for death and eternity. Let our hearts and our conversation be in heaven. Be with us through all the changing scenes of life; and O forsake us not in our last extremity, but give us hope in a dying hour, and take our departing spirits to be with Christ.

Set up thy glory, O Lord, above the heavens, and let thy name be sanctified in all the earth. Convert the heathen and infidel world to the faith of thy Son. Give wise and upright rulers to the nations; and

let

let the gospel of Jesus go forth as the sun, to enlighten the whole world. Reform the churches which are dark and corrupt. Cast down that tyranny and ungodliness which keep out knowledge, holiness, and peace. Preserve and bless the reformed churches, especially in these kingdoms. Make our rulers faithful to their trust, that they may seek the true prosperity of their country. Teach thou our teachers. Give all thy churches able and faithful pastors, and abundantly succeed their labours, that their hearers may be fruitful in knowledge and holiness, peace and charity.

Bless all the members of this family, together with all that are near and dear to us, both in body and soul; and help us to serve each other in love. We thankfully acknowledge thy fatherly goodness manifested to us this day. Be pleased to continue it through the night watches. Give us such rest of body and mind as may fit us for the duties of the day ensuing. We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ our only Saviour and Mediator. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

In the Method of the LORD'S PRAYER.

MOST glorious God, and most merciful *Father;* thou dwellest in the highest *heaven,* but hast manifested thy glory through all the earth. With filial reverence and delight would we celebrate thy perfections. Thou art power, wisdom, and goodness itself; the creator of all things; the owner, the ruler, and the benefactor of the world; but especially of thy church and people. We adore thee that though, by sin, we thy children were become thine enemies; slaves to Satan and the world; and had exposed ourselves to the condemnation of thy law; thou in thy paternal love hast interposed, to redeem us to thyself by Jesus Christ thy Son, and to regenerate us by thy holy Spirit. We bless thee that thou givest us leave to call thee our reconciled *Father,* and to entertain

entertain the hope of an immortal inheritance in thy heavenly kingdom. O with what wonderous love hast thou loved us, that we who had been rebels should be called and made the sons of God.

Thou hast advanced us to this dignity that we might be wholly devoted to thee, as thine own; that we might love thee with all our hearts, delightfully obey thee, and ever live to thy glory. Cause us and all the world to *hallow*, reverence, and sanctify *thy* great *name*. O may we live to thee as our ultimate end; and may thy shining image on our souls glorify thy divine perfections.

Cause all the kingdoms of the earth to cast off the tyranny of Satan and of sin; to acknowledge thy supreme authority; and to become the kingdoms of the Lord and his Christ. And O do thou perfect *thy kingdom* of grace in our souls, by engaging us to a more willing and absolute subjection to thy government; and we beseech thee to hasten *thy kingdom* of glory.

We pray that neither we, nor others, may be governed by the will of the flesh,

or

or of man; by erroneous imaginations, or by that self-will which is the idol of the wicked; but by the good and acceptable and perfect *will* of God, which thou hast revealed in thy word. Make known thy word of truth and righteousness to all the world, and cause men to understand, believe, and obey the gospel of salvation; so that the *earth*, which is now too much like hell, may in holiness, peace, and love be made to resemble *heaven*. [May thy churches on earth desire and endeavour to resemble thy heavenly church, in which thou art obeyed and loved and praised with the highest delight, harmony, and perfection.]

We pray that thou, who art the God of our lives, and the author of all our outward comforts, wilt be pleased to maintain the life which thou hast given us here, till the work of life be finished. Grant us, we pray thee, such health of mind and body, such protection, and such supplies, as shall best fit us for our duty. *Give us this day*, and every day, *our daily bread*, and make us content therewith. [Save

us from the love of the riches, honours, and pleasures of this world; and from that pride, indolence, and sensuality, which they tend to cherish.] Help us to acknowledge thy providence in our diligent labours; to serve thee faithfully with all that thou givest us; and to labour above all things for the meat which endureth to everlasting life.

We beseech thee of thy mercy, through the sacrifice and propitiation of thy beloved Son, *forgive us* all *our* sins and *trespasses;* all our omissions of duty, and commissions of what thou hast forbidden; our sins of heart, of word, and of deed: [our sinful passions and affections: our secret and open sins: our sins of ignorance, negligence, and rashness; especially our sins against knowledge and conscience; against solemn vows and covenant engagements.] Spare us, good Lord, and grant us repentance unto life. Take not away thine holy Spirit from us, nor deny us his assistance and holy operations. Seal to us the pardon of our sins; lift up upon us the light

of

of thy countenance, and grant us the joys of thy salvation.

And let thy love and mercy to us fill us, not only with love and thankfulness to thee, but with love and mercy to our brethren, and even our enemies; that we may heartily *forgive them*, as (through thy grace) we hope we do.

For the time to come, suffer us not wilfully to cast ourselves *into temptation*, but enable us carefully to avoid it, and resolutely to resist and conquer the temptations we cannot avoid. Let us not be assaulted by Satan or the world, or tried by thy judgments, above the strength which thy grace shall give us. And O do thou mortify those inward lusts which are our constant and most dangerous enemies.

Deliver us from a fearless confidence in our own strength, and let us not dally with the snare, nor taste the bait, but cause us to fear and depart *from evil;* lest, before we are aware, we be entangled and overcome, to the wounding of our consciences

with guilt, and with the dread of thy wrath. Especially save us from error and unbelief, from pride and hypocrisy, from sensuality and hardness of heart. Deliver us from the malice of Satan, and wicked men, and from all the evils which sin brings along with it.

While we earnestly crave all this from thee, we humbly tender our praises, and our future service to thee. Thou art the king of all the earth: *thy kingdom* is everlasting: wise and just and merciful is thy government. *Thine is the power*, both to punish thine enemies, and to assist and recompense them that love and serve thee: *and* to thee is *the glory* due for all that they are, and do, and enjoy: we pray that thou mayest be glorified in and by US. The whole creation proclaimeth thy praise; but in heaven only art thou served in perfection, where the blessed see thy glory. O that we may at length arrive there, and with the innumerable company of saints and angels admire, adore, love, and serve thee for ever, who wast, and art,

art, and art to come! Of thee, and through thee, and to thee, are all things, to whom be *glory*, by Christ Jesus, *for ever*. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

GLORIOUS Jehovah! While angels and perfected spirits are praising thee in the presence of thy glory, thou hast allowed and commanded us to take our part in the presence of thy grace. We have the same most holy God to praise; and though we see thee not, our faith discerneth thee in thy works and word. And, blessed be thy name, though as sinners we are unworthy, and our best services are polluted, yet we have a great High-priest, who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners; who appears for us before thy throne, with the merits of his spotless life and sacrifice. In his name would we now approach thy presence, with hope and confidence. Accept our persons and services through this blessed Mediator.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who wast, and art, and art to come. Thou art eternal, without beginning or end: immense, without measure or bounds: the infinite Spirit, the Lord and Life of the creation: most powerful, wise, and good. All thy works declare thy praise: thy glorious perfections appear in them all; for thy glory and pleasure they were all created. The heavens, and all the hosts thereof, the sun, the moon, and the stars of light; the earth, and all that dwell therein, with all its beauteous ornaments; the air, and all that breathe in it; the great deeps, and all that inhabit them; all are the preachers of thy perfections, and all shew forth the great Creator's glory.

[How amazing was that power which produced the universe from nothing; which with astonishing swiftness moveth those great luminaries above, and send-

* *N. B.* When brevity is required, this prayer may be begun here. This may be used occasionally, as it was originally intended, for *Lord's Day Morning*.

eth forth their light and influence; which giveth life to such numberless tribes of beings, in the earth, the air, and sea; and which through so many ages preserveth the whole frame of nature! How glorious that wisdom which ordereth all things, which assigns to all their place and office, and by the most perfect laws, maintains the beauty and harmony of all! How glorious is that goodness, which made all very good; and which is manifested in the happiness of every living thing?].

We glorify thee as our creator and sovereign. We are thine own, and our entire obedience is thy due. Just are all thy laws and judgments, true and sure is thy word, and it is our duty and our happiness, in all things, to be subject to thy will.

We acknowledge thee as our great benefactor, in whom we live, and move, and have our being. All we are, all we have, all we can do, is wholly from thee, and all is for thee. Thou art our highest end; to love thee is our first duty, and our only felicity, for thou art infinitely amiable: thou art love itself.

We

We adore thee as our great Redeemer and Saviour. When man by sin turned away his heart from thee, and became an idol to himself, blessed be thy name thou didst not treat him according to his desert: when we forsook thee, we were not utterly forsaken by thee: when by sin we were become thine enemies, and had exposed ourselves to the curse of thy law, thy mercy gave the promise of a Redeemer, whom in the fulness of time thou didst send, to assume our nature; who fulfilled thy law, who suffered for our sins, who conquered death, rose again, ascended to heaven, and is there our glorified head and intercessor. Him hast thou exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and remission of sins. In him thou hast given pardon, reconciliation, and adoption, by a covenant of grace, unto every penitent believer. Of enemies and the heirs of death, thou hast made us sons, and heirs of life.

[Our souls have now a refuge from the wrath to come. Satan, the world, and death are vanquished. Our Lord is risen,

and we have the hope of rising with him. He is ascended to his Father and our Father, to his God and our God. O may we ere long ascend to our glorified head, and be with him where he is, to behold his glory! To his hands may we be enabled chearfully to commit our departing spirits, saying, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"]

We praise thee for the Spirit of life, which thou hast sent, to communicate light, and life, and love, to our dark, dead, and disaffected souls. May that Spirit be imparted to us, and may we thereby be sealed to the day of redemption. May we remember that we are created, redeemed, and sanctified, for thy love, and praise, and service. O let these be the delight of our souls, and the employment of our lives. Strengthen, O God, we beseech thee, thy weak and languid graces in our hearts, that our love may be more ardent, our praise more affectionate, and our obedience more compleat. Fain would we be more like those blessed spirits above, whose love is unmixed with fear, whose

praise

praise is without languor, and whose obedience is perfect.

We lament that our faith is so weak; that we have so little taste and feeling of thy love; that we are so pressed down with this load of sin, and so imprisoned by the remainder of our carnal affections. O let us not rest in this state: Lord, increase our faith. Shed abroad thy love in our hearts. Mortify our unbelief, our pride, our sensuality, and all those sins which interrupt us in the service and enjoyment of thee. Make us more holy and heavenly: bring us nearer to thyself by faith and love now, that we may be more meet for that world, where the harmony of universal love and praise shall never be interrupted by sins or griefs, fears or discord, but shall be everlastingly perfect, to our joy, and to thy glory.

Vouchsafe more of thy Spirit, O Lord, to all thy churches and servants in the world; [that as their ignorance and imperfections have divided and weakened them, have scandalized infidels, and har-

dened the ungodly; so their knowledge, purity, and love, may unite and strengthen them; and the glory of their holiness may win an unbelieving world to Christ. Let every knee bow to him, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to thy glory and their salvation.] Provide and send forth the messengers of thy grace through all the earth. Let thy holy word and worship continue in these kingdoms, so long as the world endureth. Let all our congregations have burning and shining lights, that the people may not perish for lack of knowledge; and do thou open mens' hearts to receive thy word, and cause them to know the day of their visitation. Bless the King, and all in authority, with that wisdom and righteousness which are needful to the safety, peace, and welfare of themselves and of their subjects. Be merciful to those who are in affliction, want, or danger of every kind, and appear for them according to thy goodness and their necessity. All which we ask through our glorified Mediator Jesus Christ

Christ the righteous, unto whom as the Lamb that was slain, and the great Lord and head of his church, be ascribed glory everlasting. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O Almighty, all-seeing, and most gracious God; who hast created us and all things for thy glory; we sinful worms of the earth, encouraged by thine own command and promise, and by the mediation of thine own Son, do humbly cast ourselves down before thee, to acknowledge thy mercies, to confess our sins, to supplicate thy favour, and to tender thee our service.

We thank thee that thou hast made us reasonable creatures, to know and love and serve thee on earth, and to enjoy everlasting happiness in thy glory above. We bless thee that we, who were conceived in sin, and who, in our fleshly state, were enemies to thee by wicked works, were not left, like the fallen angels, to helpless despair; but that we have an all-sufficient Saviour given us, by thy love, who hath redeemed us by his blood, and

and conferred a free pardon, and title to life, in his covenant of grace, upon all that heartily accept him as their Lord and Saviour.

We praise thee for his blessed gospel, for his spotless example, and for his holy Spirit, promised to all true believers. We thank thee for our birth and education, our health and friends, our peace and liberty, and for all the comforts of this life. We thank thee for our public instructions, and private helps, for the comfort of thy worship, and all the means of salvation. But especially we praise thee if thou hast blessed any of them for our good. Adored be thy name that thou didst not give us over to the blindness of our own minds, the hardness of our hearts, and the dominion of our fleshly wills and desires. [How great was the mercy which not only spared our lives, and kept us from hell, while we were sinning against thee, but at length convinced any of us of our guilt and misery; awakened us to repentance; taught us the vanity of the world, and the certainty and glory of the life to come!

come! How great the mercy which opened to us the mysteries of thy gospel, and drew us to thy Son, as the way to thee our end and happiness.]

We cannot think of thy love to us without calling to mind our unworthiness and ingratitude. Our depraved nature was the fruitful source of manifold iniquities in our lives. Our childhood and youth were spent too much in folly and sensuality. How long did we forget our God, our souls, and our everlasting state! How long did we live in ignorance and unbelief, following divers lusts and vanities, and resisting thy blessed Spirit, which moved us to repent and turn to thee! [And even since we consented to thy holy covenant, we have too often yielded to temptations; we have been so cold in our love to thee, so slothful in thy service, so unfruitful in our lives, so unprofitable both under thy mercies and thy fatherly chastisements, that thou mightest justly have taken thine holy Spirit from us, and suffered us to return to our former misery.]

O Lord,

O Lord, enter not into judgment with us. Forgive us, we beseech thee, for his sake who is the propitiation for our sins. Charge not upon us the sins of our hearts or of our lives; of our youthful days, or our riper years; our sins of omission or commission. Wash us in the blood, and accept us through the merits, of our blessed Redeemer.

Let our hearts be sincere in consenting to his covenant; and by a lively faith may we be one with him our living head. Let us receive the continual communications of his enlightening, quickening, and sanctifying Spirit, without which our souls are dark, dead, and polluted. O give us this Spirit to dwell in us, to fill our hearts with holy *life;* to form us to a new and holy nature; that we may die unto sin, and live unto thee. Give us thy Spirit to fill us with holy *light;* that we may know thee in Christ, may understand thy word, and believe thy truth. Give us thy Spirit to fill us with holy *love;* that our whole desire may be to thee, and our whole delight in thee. [Let not our affections be still

so cold, our desires so languid, our endeavours so slothful, nor our hopes of heaven so faint. Suffer not the pleasures, or riches, or honours, of this vain world so often to steal away our hearts from thee, nor our fleshly lusts so often to overcome thy Spirit.] Regulate our thoughts, words, and actions by thy word; and govern our appetites, and passions, by thy grace, that they may not hinder but further us in thy service.

Deliver us, O God, from a selfish temper, and teach us to love our neighbour as ourselves, to wrong no man in thought, word, or deed; but to do all the good we can to others, both for their bodies and souls. Save us from the diabolical sin of pride, and all the fruits of it. Make us humble and lowly in our own eyes, and patient if we are vile in the eyes of others. Teach us to loathe ourselves for our past sins, and make us watchful against temptations to them for the future. Especially save us from those heart distempers which are most powerful in us, and which we are most prone to indulge and overlook. Favour

vour us with such helps as we most need, and bless them to us for our good.

Make us faithful in all the duties of our relations; in the kingdom, in the church, and in the family. Teach us to behave aright in our several stations, whether as superiors, inferiors, or equals, that we may have comfort, and be useful in them. Mercifully dispose of our persons, our friends, and all our affairs, for the best. Protect and provide for our bodies: make us contented with our daily bread, and patient if we should suffer want.

Be merciful, O God, to all the afflicted. Give such seasonable deliverance to the sick, the oppressed, and broken hearted, as shall be most for their good, for that of others, and for thy glory. Continue thy gospel to thy churches. Furnish them with skilful, holy, and diligent pastors, and bless the labours of such, to the increase of holiness, love and peace. Bless the king and all in authority. Teach them to govern, and us to obey, as the subjects of the King of kings. Deliver deceived and oppressed nations, especially those pro-

professing christianity, from tyranny and error. Subdue the powers that rebel against thee, and let the kingdoms of the world become the kingdoms of Christ. Open a way for the gospel to them; send them teachers fitted for so great a work, and crown their labours with success, that thus thy name may be hallowed, thy kingdom may come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

ETERNAL and incomprehensible God, who dwellest in light which no man can approach, where thousands of thousands minister unto thee; we adore thee that thou also dwellest on earth, with the humble and contrite, and hast consecrated for us a new and living way, that with boldness we may enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, and hast bid us to seek thee while thou mayest be found.

We are here come unto thee at thy call, to worship at thy footstool: behold us in thy tender mercies, and let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thou, O God, art holy, and hatest the workers of iniquity. Thou hast appointed death as the wages of sin; but to exalt thy mercy, thou hast sent thy Son to be the Saviour of the world, and hast promised

mised forgiveness of sins, through his blood, to all that believe in him, and by true repentance return unto thee.

Lord, we confess that we are vile and miserable sinners. We have all gone astray from thee, every one in his own way. Instead of living wholly to thy glory, and obeying thy will in all things, we have sought to please ourselves, minding the things of the flesh, and making provision for the lusts thereof. Lord, our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us. We are not worthy to be called thy children, but have deserved thy wrath. In sinning against thee, we have sinned against our own souls. To us belongeth confusion of face, but unto thee belong mercy and forgiveness.

Have mercy upon us, O God, pardon our iniquities, and heal all our diseases. Wash us in the blood of the Lamb, which taketh away the sins of the world, and accept us through him.

Grant us repentance unto life. Cause us to loathe ourselves for our sins, and

give

give us those broken and contrite spirits which thou wilt not despise. Enlighten our understandings, to know the wonderful things of thy law, and the riches of thy grace in Jesus Christ. Put thy fear and thy love in our hearts, that we may never depart from thee.

Teach us to live by faith, and thus to live above the world, while we are in it, and to use the world as not abusing it. Let us not pass the rest of our time after the lusts of men, but after the will of God; striving to enter in at the strait gate, doing the work of him that sent us. Help us to walk circumspectly and without offence, redeeming the time, because the days are few and evil.

Make us zealous of good works, in patience possessing our souls; taking up our cross, and following Christ Jesus our Lord, that having suffered with him, we may be also glorified with him. Though tempted, may we overcome in his strength, and at last may we receive that crown of life which he has promised to all them that are faithful unto death.

As

As the world, O God, was created for thy glory, let thy name be glorified in all the earth. Let atheists, idolaters, and infidels be converted to thee. Unite all christians, in Jesus Christ the only true and universal head, in faith and love. O cast out errors and corruptions, heal divisions, and restrain the spirit of pride, persecution, and cruelty, among all that profess thy name.

By thee kings reign and princes decree justice, and thou rulest in all the kingdoms of the earth. By thy gracious hand, O Lord, rule and protect us. Bless our king and governors: grant them the spirit of wisdom and counsel, of holiness and the fear of the Lord. Bless all the members of the royal family: endue them with thine holy Spirit, enrich them with thine heavenly grace, and make them blessings in their generations. Grant unto the great council, the nobility, the judges, and all the magistrates of the land, that wisdom which is from above, that they may rule in thy fear, and judge righteously.

Give

Give all the churches able, holy and faithful pastors, who may honestly and diligently preach thy word, and guide thy flock in the way of truth, holiness, and peace. Bless our land with the fruits of the earth in their season, and with such temperate weather as is necessary thereunto. Preserve us from sickness, from the mischievous contrivances of the wicked, from civil discord, and every other evil. Shew pity to the afflicted, and sanctify thy fatherly chastisements. Be a friend to all our friends, and help them and us to perform all the mutual offices of friendship. May all the members of our family be members of Christ, and finally dwell together in thy heavenly kingdom.

Accept, O most gracious God, our thanksgivings for thy unspeakable love and mercy to us, and all the race of mankind; especially for that unsearchable mystery of love, which the angels desire to look into, the gift of thy beloved Son, for our redemption and salvation. [We bless thee that he, the Lord of all, became poor, that we, through his poverty, might be made

made rich. That he not only lived, and taught, and laboured for our good, but that he also suffered and died for our sins: That he was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, that by his stripes we might be healed.] We thank thee for the new covenant established in his blood: for the exceeding great and precious promises of thy gospel: for the revelation of thy will and our duty: for the assistance of thy ministers, and the influences of thy Spirit. [We bless thee for thy patience and forbearance towards us, for thy continued willingness to accept us: for the liberty of access to thy throne of grace: for all thy providences and ordinances, and for all the rich mercies which abound towards us by Jesus Christ.] O let us give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endureth for ever.

We particularly bless thee for that goodness which has protected us, and provided for us the past day. O give us such a deep sense of thy manifold mercies as shall awaken our gratitude, constrain us to better

obedience, and encourage our constant trust in thy providence and grace. May goodness and mercy still follow us all our days. We commit ourselves afresh to thee, and beg thy care over us through the watches of this night, that no evil may come nigh our persons or our dwelling. Hear, O Lord, we beseech thee, these our prayers and praises, through the merits and intercession of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

BLESSED and glorious God; thou art the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; the Father of mercies, and the God of all grace. We are not worthy of the least of all thy blessings; and yet how large a share have we had of them! Open thou our lips, and our mouths shall shew forth thy praise.

We are thy creatures, O Lord, whose hands have made and fashioned us; thou art the Father of our spirits, and our bodies are thy workmanship. [Thine eye did see our substance, being yet imperfect, and in thy book all our members were written, which in continuance were fashioned when as yet there was none of them. Thou hast clothed us with skin and flesh, thou hast fenced our bones with sinews, thou hast granted us life and favour,

favour, and thy visitation preserveth our spirits.]

We bless thee that thou hast made us after thine own image, but a little lower than the angels, and crowned us with glory and honour: that thou hast taught us more than the beasts of the field, and made us wiser than the fowls of the air. Help us to worship and serve thee the Lord our maker. May all those powers, by which thou hast distinguished us from the rest of thy creatures, be devoted to thy service, and employed for thine honour.

We bless thee for thy tender care of us in the helpless state of infancy, and for the constant attendance of thy providence ever since. Thou hast fed us all our life long, and redeemed us from evil. We bless thee for preservation or recovery from sickness, and for deliverance from the many dangers to which we have been exposed. Thou hast, in love to our souls, saved us from the pit of corruption, thou hast delivered our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. O may thy goodness lead us to repentance, and may

we walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

We praise thee that we were born in a land enjoying the gospel, and not in the region of the shadow of death: neither among Pagans, who have not the Bible, nor Papists, who are forbid the use of it. Thou hast shewed unto us thy word and thy statutes, thy grace and covenant; thou hast not dealt so with many other nations. We bless thee for the gospel itself, and for thy Son, the Redeemer of lost sinners, therein revealed. May his name be unto us as ointment poured forth. Blessed be God who hath so loved the world as to send his only begotten Son into it, that the world through him might be saved. [We bless thee for his holy life, his meritorious death, his triumphant resurrection, his ascension to thy right hand, and the intercession which he there ever lives to make for us. Lord grant us an interest in him and in his great salvation.]

We bless thee for thy Spirit which thou hast sent to abide with thy church for ever, to convince of sin, to sanctify the heart, and

and to dwell in the souls of believers. O may that blessed Spirit take up his abode in our souls, to enlighten, to quicken, to sanctify, and to comfort us! We bless thee for the appointment of a gospel-ministry in the church, as the means of converting sinners, and edifying the body of Christ; and for the opportunities we have enjoyed for attending the ordinances of the gospel. Lord teach us to profit by them, and make thy word the savour of life unto life to our souls.

We would be particularly thankful that we were born of pious parents, or have been cast in the families of those professing the gospel, who were concerned to bring us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We bless thee for their repeated instructions, faithful admonitions, seasonable corrections, holy examples, and affectionate prayers. [We bless thee for all the helps we have had, public and private, for improving in useful knowledge, and especially the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, whom to know is life eternal; and that we have still line upon line, and precept upon

precept.] O our God, grant that all may not be in vain, and that we may not be, after all, cumberers of thy ground. Water all these means with thine heavenly influence, and make us fruitful in every good word and work.

[We bless thee for the restraints of thy grace and providence; that we are not as vile and profane as many others. We bless thee for the good impressions which thou hast made on our souls; and especially for any ground to hope that thou hast begun thy good work in any of us. Lord strengthen what thou hast wrought, grant us more evidence of it, and perform it to the day of Jesus Christ.]

Make us more thankful for all thy mercies, and help us not only to speak, but to live thy praise. We lament our past ingratitude. What unsuitable returns have we made for that goodness of thine which has followed us all our days! We earnestly implore thy pardoning mercy, through the great Mediator, and would as earnestly entreat thy quickening influence, that we may love thee more and serve thee better.

O grant

O grant us the continued supplies of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, that we may give all diligence to add to our faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness, and charity. May these things not only be in us, but abound, that we may not be unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Help us to put on the whole armour of God, that we may stand against the wiles of the devil, and withstand in the evil day. Keep us from the evil of the world, and give us that faith which will overcome it. Teach us our duty in all its parts, and make us compleat in all the will of God. Help us to walk in all the statutes and ordinances of the Lord blameless. [Enable us to discharge our duty aright towards our fellow-creatures according to our several relations. May we love our neighbour as ourselves, walk uprightly, speaking the truth in our hearts, not backbiting with our tongues, nor take up a reproach against our neighbour. May we do justly, and love mercy, as well as walk humbly with our God. Teach us to love our enemies,

to bless them that curse us, and to forgive them that wish or do us evil, as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us.]

Help us duly to consider our latter end, and diligently to prepare for death and eternity. Let us not presume upon long life, or talk of goods laid up for many years, since we know not how soon our souls may be required of us. Lord teach us so to number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. Whatsoever our hand findeth us to do, may we do it with all our might, since there is no work, nor knowledge, nor device in the grave, whither we are going.

And now, Lord, what wait we for? our hope is in thee. Let thine ears be open unto the supplications of thy servants. Accept our acknowledgments for the mercy of the night past. Take care of us through this day. Fit us for the duties and the trials of every day, and O prepare us for our last. All which we beg in the name, and through the mediation, of the Lord Jesus, who has taught us to pray after this manner,

Our Father, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, thou art the most high God over all the earth. Thy greatness is unsearchable, thy understanding is infinite, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Thou, O Lord, fillest heaven and earth with thy presence. Thou searchest the heart, and triest the reins of the children of men. Thou knowest our down-sitting and up-rising, and art acquainted with all our ways. Yea, all things are naked and open to the eyes of that God with whom we have to do.

Lord help us to consider this when we approach unto thee, and do thou suitably impress our minds therewith. Fill our souls with awe and reverence of thy majesty, and with trust and confidence in

thee. Inspire our hearts with devout affections, and help us to worship thee in spirit and in truth.

We are now come to seek thy favour, and implore thy blessing. Look down upon us in mercy. Let thy Spirit help our infirmities. Give ear unto our voice, O Lord, and consider our meditation. [Hast thou not said, "Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find?" Fulfil thy word unto thy servants, we beseech thee, and let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord our strength and our redeemer.]

We confess that we are utterly unworthy of thy favour. Lord, we are vile, what shall we answer thee? [Our natures are depraved, and our lives have been stained with many actual transgressions. By one man's disobedience many were made sinners. How soon did the corrupt fountain shew itself by its impure streams! We have been transgressors from the womb.] The imagination of our hearts has been evil from our youth. How early did pride, anger,

anger, envy, revenge, self-will, and other unruly appetites, appear in our lives. O remember not the sins of our youth, nor our later transgressions; for we must confess our guilt has increased with our years. We have walked too much after the way of our own hearts, and in the sight of our eyes.

[We have misimproved our time and talents, our means of grace, and opportunities for serving and enjoying God. How many are the sins of our thoughts and affections, of our words and common converse, and even of our holy things! How defective have we been in the duties of the closet, the assembly, and the family! How sadly deficient have we been in the services which we owe to each other! How remiss in the government of our own spirits! How much pride and passion, lust, and envy, covetousness, and worldly mindedness, have we yet to complain of! We have not kept ourselves from the sins which most easily beset us, but through neglect of watchfulness, have often contracted fresh guilt by falling into them.]

These our iniquities are highly aggravated, as they are committed against light and conviction, against promises, vows, and manifold experience, against great grace and love. Lord, we abhor ourselves, and repent in dust and ashes. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou us from secret faults. Grant us the blessedness of those whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered, unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity. We have no merit to plead, but cast ourselves upon thy sovereign mercy in the Redeemer. Thou hast declared thy name, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. Let us experience the bounty and compassion of thy nature. We plead the blood of atonement. We have sinned, but Christ has died. O justify us freely by thy grace through the redemption that is in him.

And O do thou heal and sanctify our sinful nature. Help us to put off the old man which is corrupt, and to put on the new man, which after God, is created in righteous-

righteousness and true holiness. Enlighten our minds, and grant us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ. Open our eyes that we may behold wondrous things out of thy law, and be filled with the knowledge of thy will in all spiritual understanding. Give us faithful consciences, that shall smite us when we do evil, and teach us to submit to their reproof. Subdue our wills, cast down lofty imaginations, and bring every thought in subjection to Christ. Help us to set our affections on things above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and grant that our whole spirit, soul, and body, may be preserved blameless until the coming of Christ.

As thou requirest that prayers and thanksgiving be made for all men, we would remember the cases of others before thee. Shower down, O Lord, thy blessings upon the inhabitants of the world. Give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. Be favourable

vourable to our native land. Let thy providence be our defence, and thy presence our glory. Bless the king and all in authority, and dispose the people to lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty.

Bless the ministers of thy word. Make them faithful and successful. Clothe them with salvation, that thy saints may shout aloud for joy. Be with those especially under whose ministry we are placed. Enable them to speak the things that become sound doctrine: help us to profit by their endeavours, and grant that we may be their joy and crown in the presence of Christ at his coming.

May thy blessing rest on this family, and thy light shine on our tabernacle. May the heads of the family be zealous in their endeavours for the good of those committed to their care. May the children of the family be their rejoicing, by walking in thy truth. Help them to flee youthful lusts, and to remember thee their Creator. May the servants be faithful to their

their trust, as those who serve a master in heaven.

Bless all our relations, friends, and acquaintance, with all good things, and especially with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. Graciously pity the afflicted, succour the tempted, provide for the poor, and be a present help to all in the time of trouble.

We bless thee for the mercies of this day, that no evil has befallen us in it. Pardon the sins of it, in our thoughts, words, and actions. Take us under thy protection this night, and in the morning cause us again to hear the voice of health and gladness. We ask all in the name of Jesus, our adorable mediator and advocate. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O Lord our God, unto thee would we lift up our souls. Quicken us to call upon thy name. Assist us by thy Spirit in our access to thy mercy-seat, and raise our hearts to thyself. Teach us to approach thee as becometh creatures, and do thou draw nigh unto us as a God of grace.

Thou art God, and there is none else; thy name alone is Jehovah. All nations before thee are as nothing, and they are accounted in thy sight less than nothing and vanity. Thou art the blessed and only potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords. All things are naked and open before thine eyes. Thou searchest the heart of man, but how unsearchable is thine understanding! Thy power is infinite. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Thou art slow to anger, abundant in goodness, thy mercy is everlasting,

lasting, and thy truth endureth to all generations.

As thou art glorious in thyself, so by thy works thou hast manifested thy glory to us. Thou, Lord, hast made the heavens and the earth. The whole creation is the work of thine hands. Thou rulest among the armies of heaven, and doest what thou pleasest among the inhabitants of the earth. Thy works of nature and providence are full of wonder, but especially thy works of grace and redemption by Jesus Christ. While we give glory unto thee, we would humble ourselves in thy presence. Our being is but of yesterday, and our foundation is in the dust. We are not only mean in our original, but we are guilty and depraved. We confess before thee the iniquities of our thoughts, of our lips, and of our lives; our sins of omission and of commission; the sins of our childhood, and of our riper years; our sins against the law and against the gospel.

[We mourn before God our pride and vanity of mind; our earthly-mindedness, and

and love of this world; our sensuality and indulgence of the flesh; our carnal security, and unthankfulness for our many mercies; our fretfulness and impatience, or sinful dejection, in times of trouble; our neglect of duty, and want of love to thee; our unbelief and hardness of heart, our slothfulness and decay in religion; the dishonour we have brought to thy name, and all our miscarriages to our fellow-creatures.]

We are ashamed and blush to lift up our faces before thee our God, for our iniquities are increased over our heads, and our trespasses have reached up to the heavens. We will lay our hands upon our mouth, and our mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope.

[We deserve, O Lord, to be for ever cast out of thy presence, and cut off from all hope of thy favour. If thou shouldst mark our iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, and with thee is plenteous redemption. Blessed be thy name that thou hast invited

vited us to the throne of thy grace, and promised, that if we confess and forsake our sins we shall find mercy.]

Gracious God, we humbly beseech thee to take away the guilt of our sins, through the atonement of thy Son; justify our persons through his righteousness, and subdue the power of our iniquities by thy Spirit. Deliver us from the natural darkness of our minds, from the corruption of our hearts, and the perverse tendency of our appetites and passions. May thy Spirit discover to us the evil and danger of sin, enlighten our minds in the knowledge of God in Jesus Christ, and sanctify all the powers of our nature. Form our hearts according to thy will, and after the image of thy Son. Be thou our light and our strength, and quicken us in the paths of holy obedience. Fortify us against the temptations, and free us from the snares which daily attend us. While we are in this life we are in continual danger; let the watchful eye of our God be upon us for our defence. Save us from the power of

of our enemies in this world, and from the punishment due to our sins in the world to come.

Preserve the gospel among us, and let all the means of grace be continued to us, and be made serviceable for the great ends of their appointment. Let all thy providences be sanctified to us. May thy mercies, as cords of love, draw us nearer to thyself; and let the strokes of thine afflicting hand wean us from sin, mortify us to this world, and make us ready for our departure hence, whensoever thou art pleased to call us. Guide us by thy counsels, and secure us by thy grace, in all our travels through this dangerous wilderness, and at last give us the victory over death, and a triumphant entrance into the kingdom of thy glory.

While we are here in the body, give us such things as are necessary to support our lives, and to make them easy and comfortable to us. Let our health, our strength, and our peace be maintained, and let holiness to the Lord be inscribed upon them all,

all, that whatever we receive from thine hands may be improved to thine honour and our truest advantage.

We pray thee to enlarge the borders of thy Son's kingdom: spread the gospel among the heathen, and make the name of Christ glorious from the rising to the setting sun. Call in the remainder of thine ancient people the Jews, with the fulness of the Gentiles, into thy church. Pour down a more abundant measure of thy Spirit to carry on thy own work upon earth. May his influence be diffused in plentiful degrees upon churches, upon ministers, upon families, and upon all the saints. Deliver those who suffer from persecuting powers: restrain the wrath of man, and cause it to praise thee.

We pray for the nation to which we belong, that liberty and peace may be established and flourish in it. Bless our governors, supreme and subordinate, with wisdom and faithfulness, to manage the affairs thou hast entrusted them with. We pray for our friends and relatives, that thou wouldst deliver them from all the

the evils they feel or fear, and bestow upon them all the good we wish for ourselves, here or hereafter.

We give thee humble and hearty thanks for all thy mercies vouchsafed to mankind in general, and to ourselves in particular, especially for the safety and refreshment of the past night. May the same good providence defend us through the hours of this day, and may thy grace assist us in all the duties of it. Hear and answer us, pardon, accept, and bless us, for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ, through whom, by one Spirit, be ascribed to the only living and true God, everlasting praises. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

MOST high and most holy God; we who are but dust and ashes, take upon us to speak to thy sacred majesty. Pardon our unworthiness and help our infirmities. Hearken to the voice of our cry, O our King and our God, unto whom we will pray.

We adore thee as the first and the last, the greatest and the best of beings; the only true and living God, whose glorious name is exalted above all blessing and praise. We adore thee as the creator and governor of the universe, and the bountiful benefactor of all thy creatures.

With gratitude and joy we acknowledge thy relation to us, as our Creator, our Redeemer, our King, our Almighty Friend, our reconciled God and Father in Jesus Christ. [We would esteem it as our duty, our honour, and our most delightful employment, to acknowledge our dependence

upon thee, and our obligations to thee, and to ascribe honour and praise to the power, wisdom, and goodness to which we are indebted for all our present enjoyments, and for all our hopes for futurity. O may we never forget our heavenly benefactor, or grow regardless of that hand whence all our comforts flow.]

We praise thee, O Lord, for thine original designs of love to fallen man; that thou shouldst make such a distinction between us and the angels that sinned. Lord, what is man that thou shouldst so concern thyself about his salvation! Blessed, for ever blessed be thy name, that though fallen angels were suffered to perish without a Saviour, thou didst chuse any of the race of Adam unto salvation; that before all worlds thou didst enter into a covenant of grace with thy Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and give them into his hands, that their happiness might be secured. We bless thee that thou didst reveal this mercy, in various types and promises, to our fathers by the prophets, and that in thine own appointed time

time thou didst send thy Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to redeem us by his death. We give glory to thy justice and thy grace for this work of terror and compassion; in reconciling sinners to thyself by the sufferings of thine only begotten and well-beloved Son.

We praise thee for the gospel which thou hast published to the world; the gospel of pardon and of peace: that thou hast confirmed it by such abundant testimonies, to raise and establish our faith. We give glory to that power of thine which has guarded thy gospel in all ages; and through all the oppositions of its enemies, in earth and hell, has delivered it down to us, and proclaimed its glad tidings in our age and nation.

We bless thee that we were born in such a land of light as this, in which thou hast built habitations for thyself, wherein we have enjoyed the privilege of attending thy solemn worship, of beholding thy glory and thy grace, and of being instructed in the way of salvation.

[It is a distinguishing favour of thine that we are placed in the rank of rational beings: but how much more distinguishing thy goodness, that we should be born under the promises of thy grace, and favoured with so many advantages for knowing the things which belong to our eternal peace.]

Thanks to thy goodness for the preservation of our lives, amidst all the dangers that have threatened us; that thou didst not cut us off in a state of nature and of sin; that our portion is not at this time among the children of wrath and despair; that, notwithstanding our shameful abuse of our distinguished mercies, we are still in the land of the living and of hope. That we not only still enjoy so many of the conveniencies and comforts of this life, but that the means of grace and salvation are still near unto us; that thou art yet inviting us to look unto Jesus and be saved; and that to the calls of thy word and providence, thou art pleased to add the calls of thy Spirit in our hearts.

O that the goodness of God may effectually lead us unto repentance, and that thy long-suffering may prove our salvation! God forbid that our distinguished privileges should finally prove distinguished aggravations of our guilt and misery! May we be induced, by the mercies of the Lord, to present our bodies and souls living sacrifices, holy and acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ; which is our most reasonable service. Under a sense of thy past goodness in general, and especially on a review of the mercies of the past day and week, we desire, O our heavenly Father, to dedicate ourselves afresh to thee. We are not our own, but thine: may we be entirely devoted to thy service, and be enabled to glorify thee both with our bodies and spirits, which are thine.

To be added on the evening preceding a communion-sabbath.

[Lord, we have some of us solemnly and publickly given up ourselves to thee. We have beheld Jesus the Saviour in his perfect righteousness, and all-sufficient

grace: we have put our trust in him: we have made our covenant with the Father by the sacrifice of the Son. We have often drawn near to thee in thine ordinances, we have ratified and confirmed the holy covenant at thy table; and have thus, as it were, subscribed with our hands to be the Lord's.

We desire to confirm all our former dedications of ourselves to thee. Help us afresh to commit our guilty souls into the hands of Jesus our Redeemer, that he may sprinkle them afresh with his atoning blood, and that by his grace he may form all our powers anew: that he may subdue every irregular appetite, and root out every disorderly passion: that he may frame us after his own image, fill us with his own grace, and fit us for his own glory.]

Prepare all of us, we beseech thee, for the solemnities of thine house on the ensuing day, and render thine ordinances pleasant and profitable to us, and to our fellow-worshippers. Assist all thy ministers in leading the worship of thy sanctuary, and in delivering the truths of the ever-

everlasting gospel; and do thou command the blessing out of Zion, even life for evermore. And O grant that the glad tidings of the gospel which we hear may be proclaimed through the whole earth, that all flesh may know the salvation of the Lord. We beseech thee to accept these our prayers, praises, and solemn vows, through the worthy name of thy dear Son, to whom, as the Lamb that was slain, to redeem us unto God by his blood, be glory and dominion for ever. Amen.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

MOST glorious God, and merciful Father, in our Lord Jesus Christ; we beseech thee look down with pity upon thy unworthy creatures, who are this morning of thine own day, drawing near the footstool of thy throne of grace.

It is our greatest honour and advantage to be allowed access to thee; but our souls are so bowed down with a spirit of infirmity, that we cannot lift them up unto thee. Lord cure this sad disease, cleanse us from all our sins, remove our carnality, and spiritualize our affections.

We bless thee that thou hast preserved us from all dangers through the last week, and the last night; that thou hast lengthened out our time, and that thou art now giving us another sabbath; a new opportunity to repent, and to make our calling and election sure. As thou hast awakened our bodies from sleep, Lord awaken our souls

souls from sin and spiritual slothfulness. As thou hast caused the light of this day to shine upon our bodies, cause the light of thy Word and Spirit to illuminate our dark minds. And as thou addest new days and new sabbaths to our lives, we pray that thou wouldst add new grace and strength to our souls, that we may serve thee acceptably therein.

We praise thee for thy distinguishing mercies to us; that we were born and do still live in a valley of vision; in a lightsome Goshen, when other nations about us are overwhelmed with Egyptian darkness. We bless thee that we dwell in a land where God is known and publickly worshipped.

It is a good thing to praise thy name, O Lord, and to declare thy loving-kindness. May we go unto thy gates this day with thanksgiving, and enter thy courts with praise. O that this day may be the delight of our souls! Suffer us not to do our own works, or speak our own words, or think our own thoughts. Lord fix our hearts upon thee, and upon things above,

and enable us to approve our souls in thy sight, who art the spectator of our actions, and the searcher of our hearts, and who wilt shortly call us to judgment.

Help us to remember that every sabbath, every sermon, every prayer, sets us a step nearer either to heaven or hell. Under this awful consideration may we be engaged to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Lord forbid that it should be our condemnation to go sabbath after sabbath to thy sanctuary, to encrease the deadness of our souls, to get our hearts more hardened, and to be slain by the words of thy mouth; but we pray for Christ's sake that this may be a blessed and comfortable day to us: a day of repentance and pardon; a day of conviction and conversion; a day of edification and consolation.

Give to thy servants who shall preach thy word this day, the tongue of the learned, that they may rightly divide the word of truth, and speak a word in season to the souls of their hearers, and suitable to their various cases. And O do thou

this

this day glorify thy free grace and sovereign power, in making the gospel effectual for opening the hearts of sinners, and bringing them to cast down the weapons of rebellion, and touch the golden sceptre of mercy, that they may live. And we pray thee so to open our hearts this day, by thy word, that they may be shut against thee no more. Lord forbid that our hearts should be as the high-way or stony-ground, where the good seed of thy word cannot thrive; or like the thorny-ground, where the cares of the world do choke the word; but let us receive thy word into good and honest hearts, and bring forth fruit unto perfection. Dispose us to hear with humility and reverence, without prejudice, and with minds ready to obey; mixing faith with the word, that it may be profitable to our souls.

In all the services of this day, keep us, we pray thee, from drowsiness, wandering, and weariness. Banish all vain and worldly imaginations far from us. Draw our souls out of the miry clay of this world, and wean us from the vain pleasures of it,

that we may be intent upon Christ and heaven through the whole of thy day. Deliver us from hypocrisy in our approaches to thee. Let us not draw nigh unto thee with our lips, while our hearts are far from thee, but give us grace so to ask, that we may receive; so to seek, that we may find; so to knock, that it may be opened to us.

It is a pleasure to us to think that while such multitudes are at once addressing thee, thou knowest all their conditions, and canst hear their different complaints. With thee it is the same to relieve many as few; and blessed be thy name, thou art more ready to redress all our grievances than we are to spread them before thee. May we therefore pray in faith, nothing wavering.

In praying, in praising, in reading and hearing thy word, may thy good Spirit rest upon us, and enable us to do all as for the life of our souls. Help us so to spend this day, and all our days, that we may at length receive the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls. O may

we

we spend every sabbath, and hear every sermon, as if it were our last, since we know not how soon our last will come.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon a world that lieth in wickedness. For thy name's sake ride forth in the chariot of the everlasting gospel. Take unto thyself thy glorious conquering power, and in thy majesty ride prosperously. Make the arrows of thy word sharp in the hearts of thine enemies, whereby the people may fall under thee. Cause a gale of heavenly wind this day to blow, that many dry bones may be enlivened, many dead souls quickened. And grant that the faith of thy people may be strengthened, their desires quickened, and their love inflamed. May thy churches revive as the corn, and grow as the lily, and shoot forth their branches as Lebanon. May thy people run in the way of thy commandments with enlarged hearts. Let thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth even as it is done in heaven. All which we beg for Christ's sake, to whom, with the Father and Holy Spirit, be everlasting glory and praise. Amen.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

MOST holy and glorious God; who is like unto Thee? Thou art clothed with honour and majesty, and coverest thyself with light as with a garment. Thou only hast immortality, and dwellest in light that no man can approach unto. Yet thou art a God that hearest prayer, and art ready to forgive, yea plenteous in mercy unto all that call upon thee. Lord, quicken us, this evening of thy day, that we may call upon thy name, and graciously attend unto the voice of our supplications.

We acknowledge that we have forfeited thy favour, and deserved thy wrath. [Though thou madest man at first an upright creature, we have corrupted and deformed ourselves by sin. Our natures are overspread with it as a leprosy. All the faculties of our souls, and the senses of our bodies, are defiled. Our understandings

are

are darkened, our wills are rebellious, our hearts are impure, our affections are corrupted, our consciences are seared, and all our bodily senses have been inlets to sin. As is the fountain so are the streams. Both our hearts and lives are unholy.] We have followed the vain imaginations of our carnal minds, and rejected thy holy laws. We have left those things undone which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

We have sinned presumptuously, against the clearest light, and the strongest love. [Thou hast loaded us with thy mercies, but we have loaded thy patience with our sins. Thou hast given us many talents, but we have been unfaithful stewards, having hid our Lord's money, or wasted thy goods.] Thou hast graciously allowed us time to work out our salvation; but alas! we have lavished much of it away in pleasure and vanity. Thou hast given us thine holy sabbaths, and permitted us to attend the ordinances of thine house: But too much of our sacred time has been mis-spent.

We

We have profaned thy day; we have been backward to the duties of thy worship, and have been very dead and formal in our solemn performances. Instead of worshipping thee in spirit and in truth, O how often have we dealt hypocritically with God, and taken thy name in vain!

Our own consciences witness against us, and out of our own mouths thou mightest justly condemn us. But there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared. Blessed be thy name that thou hast provided a way for our pardon and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. For his sake we pray that thou wouldst forgive all our past sins, and our manifold short-comings; particularly those we have been guilty of this day. Lord wash away our sins in the blood of Christ. We fly to his cross as our security, and to his wounds as our refuge; renouncing all confidence in any thing besides him, who is the Lord our righteousness.

And Lord engage us not only to accept of him as our high-priest, to atone for us, but also as our king to reign in and rule

over

over us, all the days of our lives. Lord possess the throne of our hearts by thy Spirit; subdue all our lusts, that they may rule over us no more, and make us willingly submit to thy golden sceptre. Do thou so incline our wills, and animate our souls, that we may never count thy commandments grievous, but may esteem it our highest pleasure and dignity, as well as our greatest duty, to serve and obey thee. Convince us of the evil and filthiness of sin, that we may loathe and shun it as deadly poison. Cherish and preserve any convictions of this sort which thou hast this day wrought in us by thy word. Suffer us not, like the man that beholdeth his natural face in a glass, to go away and forget what manner of persons we saw ourselves to be; but help us so to think of what we saw amiss in ourselves, that we may be humbled for it, and be made restless till we apply to the fountain of Christ's blood for washing away its guilt. And, Lord, we pray also that thou wouldst make us doers of thy word and not hearers only, deceiving our

own souls. Let thy word be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path, that our conversation may be as becometh the gospel, and our light may so shine before men, that others seeing our good works may glorify thee our heavenly Father.

Lord save us from resting in a good name; for what will it profit us if we have a name to live but are really dead? Save us from trusting to an outward form; for what will it avail us to have a form of godliness while we deny the power thereof? Lord renew us in the spirit of our minds. May we be thy workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works. Produce and cherish in us a true faith, a fervent love, and a lively hope. [*May those of us who have been with Christ at his Table, remember that the vows of God are upon us, and be concerned to fulfil them.*] And O grant that the love of Christ may be so shed abroad in our hearts as to burn up the love of sin and of the world, and constrain us to live not unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Cause

Cause the saving knowledge of Christ to cover the earth, and let his name be great from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof. Convince the Jews that Shiloh is come, and that Jesus whom they crucified is the true Messiah. Lord appear on the behalf of thy oppressed churches. Never let the gates of hell prevail against thy Zion. Let the time to favour her come. Peace be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces, and let them prosper that love her. Lord bless these united lands. Make our king and rulers public blessings, both in our civil and sacred concerns. Frustrate the designs of those who are enemies to the protestant succession and religion. Countenance the ministers of thy word, and water the seed they sow with the dews of heaven, that they may bring a large harvest to Christ. Let not the word spoken this day be like good seed devoured by the fowls of the air, or rotting beneath the clods, but cause it to spring up and yield great increase.

Be pleased, O Lord, graciously to visit those who by sickness are deprived of publick ordinances. Sanctify their afflictions, and make up their loss. Prepare us for sickness and trouble, and give us cause to say that it is in faithfulness that we are at any time afflicted.

Bless all the members of this family. Let this be one of the tabernacles of the righteous, in which the voice of rejoicing and salvation is heard. Enable us all faithfully to discharge the duties of our several stations; make us blessings to each other, and to all around us **. Accept our daily sacrifices of prayer and praise, and let us all at last be admitted to celebrate an eternal sabbath with thee above; for the sake and merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit is over all, God blessed for evermore. Amen.

** Where there are children, the petitions for them may be introduced here.

MONDAY MORNING.

INFINITELY great and glorious God! We poor worms of the dust, we who are sinful dust and ashes, encouraged by thy condescending goodness, by the promises of thy grace, and the mediation of thy Son, have taken upon us to speak to thy sovereign majesty. O that our hearts were duly prepared to come into thy sacred presence! Lord, let thy good Spirit help our infirmities.

We are come this morning to pay our homage to thee, our great Creator, Lord, and Benefactor, in whom we live and move and have our being; upon whom we depend for all the good we have, or hope for. We give honour to thee as the great author and founder of families, who hast made man a sociable creature, and provided that he should not be alone. We bless thee, who settest the solitary in families, that we enjoy the comforts of social

cial life. We thank thee for the continuance of our family-mercies; particularly for the protection and refreshment of the last night. Thanks be to thy name that thou hast kept us from the terrors of the night, from the malice of evil men, from the devouring flames, and from every calamity, and that thou hast caused us again to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning.

O Lord, we humbly confess that we are guilty of many heinous sins and provocations, which use to bring wrath upon families, and which might justly bring a curse upon our's, and consume us with our dwellings. Surely it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. O Lord mark not against us the sins of our hearts or of our lives, for they are more than we can remember or express.

Blessed be thy name for the remedy thou hast found out; for the fountain thou hast opened for such guilty polluted creatures to wash in. Lord give us faith to embrace the offer, and to apply the sovereign remedy. We would believe; Lord help

help our unbelief. Create within us clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thine holy Spirit from us. Cause us to know the way wherein we should walk, for we lift up our souls unto thee.

Keep us this day, we beseech thee, in thy fear, and let thy holy Spirit be our guide and counsellor in all our ways. Preserve us at all times, in all places, and in all companies, from the evil of sin; and enable us to demean ourselves as becometh the children of God, the redeemed of the Lord, and the followers of Jesus Christ. Implant and cherish such principles in our hearts, as may make us to have a sincere respect unto all thy commandments, and to hate every false way.

Keep us chaste in all our thoughts; temperate in all our enjoyments; humble in our opinions of ourselves; charitable in our thoughts and speeches of others; meek and peaceable under provocations; just and upright in all our dealings. Herein may we exercise ourselves, that we may have always

always consciences void of offence, towards God, and towards men.

Lord help us to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise; carefully redeeming the time that we have lost, and improving all the seasons of grace which thou art pleased to put into our hands, for the advantage of our souls.

As another sabbath is now past, and we are entering upon the common days of the week, we pray that we may not forget our sabbath work and enjoyments. O that thy word may make lasting impressions upon us, and that our sabbath-day's frame may remain with us, when we are employed in our common business, that so we may expect the better to prosper in it, and to be rendered fitter for the next sabbath, if it please thee to spare us to it. And grant that, as we go from one sacred day to another, we may go from strength to strength, till we all appear before thee in the heavenly Zion. Lord keep our hearts from being sunk in sensuality, and drenched in the cares and pleasures of the world. Raise our affections to the things

things above, where Christ our Saviour is. Amidst all the necessary concerns of this life, may we never forget the one thing needful. Lord preserve us from being ensnared by our temporal businesses, or enjoyments, to an immoderate love of the world, or any thing in it, or to a neglect of any of the duties which we owe to thee, or to our fellow-creatures. May the language of our hearts ever be, "Whom have "we in heaven but thee? and there is "none upon earth that we desire besides "thee?"

May we love the Lord our God with all our hearts, and our neighbour as ourselves. Let us not seek our own things, but the things which are Jesus Christ's. May it be our concern to be useful in our day, and do thou enable us to improve the talents with which thou hast intrusted us, for the truest advantage of all with whom we have to do.

May goodness and mercy follow us this day, and all our days. Preserve our going out and coming in. Bless and prosper us in all our lawful designs and undertakings.

Suffer

Suffer us to take nothing in hand but what is according to thy will, and for thy glory. Be thou our guide through life, our comfort in death, and our eternal portion beyond it.

Hear us from heaven thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest have mercy, and forgive the sins of our persons, and the imperfections of our prayers; and do exceeding abundantly above what we are worthy to expect, or able to ask, for his sake who alone is worthy, thy beloved Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom with thee, O Father, and thy Holy Spirit, be endless praise. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

O LORD, the high and lofty One who inhabitest eternity, and whose name is holy; when we consider the awful glories of thy nature, we mean and sinful creatures have cause exceedingly to fear and tremble on appearing in thy presence. But when we think of thy encouraging promises, and the discoveries of thy mercy, our drooping spirits are revived. Thou hast said, that though thou dwellest in the high and holy place, thou wilt also dwell with him who is of an humble and contrite spirit: that the needy shall not be forgotten, and the expectation of the poor shall not perish. Lord remember thy word unto thy servants, upon which thou hast caused us to hope.

Promote in us that contrition and brokenness of heart, in which thou hast so much delight, and be graciously pleased to take up thine abode with us. Dwell

in our house, and dwell in our hearts, and manifest to us the tokens of thy favour and presence. [Be thou nigh unto us to protect us, and to provide for us. We ask not riches or honours, or length of days. Give us food and raiment, and therewith we would be content. The chief desire of our heart is that thou wilt remember us with that favour which thou bearest to thine own people.]

Thou hast already done great things for us, of which we are glad. We would this evening call upon our souls, and upon one another, to bless the name of the Lord. Blessed be God who daily loadeth us with benefits. Thou preservest us in going out and coming in. Thou spreadest our table, and makest our cup to run over. Thou givest us rest on every side. Lord, what shall we render unto thee for our personal and family mercies? particularly for our health and strength, our peace and liberty, our safety and protection, our food and raiment, our social comforts and relative enjoyments! Above all we bless thee that thou causest the heavenly manna to be

rained

rained down about our tents: that thou continuest with us the light of the glorious gospel, and the means of knowledge, holiness, and happiness. In regard to spiritual privileges we are favoured above multitudes of our fellow-creatures, and even of our fellow-christians.

But, Lord, we must confess, to our shame, that we have not rendered unto thee according to the benefits we have received. We have sinned times and ways without number. [We have despised and abused the goodness of our God, and resisted the motions of thy Spirit. We lament before thee our personal iniquities, and our family sins: our vain words, our unprofitable converse, our neglect of relative duties, our misimprovement of our time, and our abuse of our various talents for usefulness.]

Look upon us, O Lord, in mercy, through thy beloved Son, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. [Let the merit of his righteousness be upon us, and by his stripes may we be healed. We pray that thou

who givest us our daily bread, wilt for Christ's sake also forgive us our daily trespasses.] Pardon whatsoever thou hast seen amiss in us through the past day; and notwithstanding our great unworthiness, we plead that, of thy free bounty, thou wilt continue thy former care and protection over us this night.

How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! therefore do men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. Because thou hast commanded thy loving-kindness in the day-time, therefore in the night shall thy song be with us, and our prayer to the God of our life. Thou art the keeper of Israel, who never slumberest nor sleepest. Command thine angels to encamp round about us, that we may not be afraid of any terror by night; and be pleased to refresh us with sufficient rest, that we may be fitted for the duties of the following day.

We bless thee, O God, that we have this night a place where to lay our head; that we are not wandering in deserts and mountains, or driven into dens and caves of

of the earth. O how much better are we provided for than our dear Saviour was, or than many of whom the world was not worthy! May our hearts be suitably impressed with a sense of thy mercies; and as thou art never weary of doing us good, may we never be weary of serving thee. [As thou hast pleasure in the prosperity of thy servants, so let us take pleasure in doing thy holy will, and promoting thy glory.]

Watch over this family continually, and send down such blessings upon it as thou didst on the house of Obed-Edom for the ark's sake. Banish sin from among us. Implant thy fear in the hearts of all [old and young]. Let us dwell together in unity, and do thou command the blessing upon us, even life for evermore.

Extend the hand of thy power and mercy, O Lord, to the utmost corners of the earth, and to them that are afar off upon the sea. Let such as sit in darkness and the shadow of death, see thy light and thy truth, and hear the joy of thy salvation.

Be merciful to our native country. Give thy judgments to the king, and thy righteousness to the king's son. May our magistrates fear God and hate evil. May those who minister in holy things be blessed with skilful heads, compassionate hearts, and exemplary lives. Convert the unconverted, and perfect the good work where it is begun. Enlighten the ignorant; awaken the secure; convince the erroneous; reclaim the vicious; establish the unsettled; comfort the dejected; and visit the sick and afflicted. Bless all our relatives and friends, forgive our enemies, and turn their hearts. Direct our ways so to please thee, that even our enemies may be at peace with us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O Lord our God, whose we are, and whom we ought to serve; we acknowledge our dependence upon thy providence, and desire to give thee the glory that is due unto thy name, for thy constant care over us, and kindness to us. Our voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will we direct our praises and our prayers unto thee, and will look up in humble expectation of further mercies from thine hands.

We bless thee that thou hast given us refreshing sleep, and caused our beds to comfort us: that wearisome nights are not appointed to us: and that we have not been surprised with our last sleep. It is owing to thy providential care alone that we have not been buried in the ruins of our habitation, and that no plague has come nigh our dwelling. We are the living, the living to praise thee, as we do

this day. Blessed be God who hath lightened our eyes this morning, and continued our capacities for the enjoyments and the duties of life. O Lord, we will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning, for thou hast been our defence. It is through thy unmerited favour that we possess such a comfortable measure of bodily health; that we still enjoy the use of our mental powers, and that the various comforts of life are continued to us. Lord make us more sensible of the greatness of these thy mercies, and more thankful for them.

And we beseech thee to make us more humble, under a sense of our great unworthiness, and our manifold transgressions against thee, whereby we have forfeited all the comforts of life, and exposed ourselves to thy wrath and curse. Lord, what is man that thou art mindful of him? Who are we, and what are our houses, that thou shouldst visit us with so much goodness? [Thou madest man upright, but he hath sought out many sinful inventions. The crown is fallen from our head;

head; wo unto us, for we have sinned. We have lost thine image, we have forfeited thy favour, we have grieved thy Spirit, we have wandered from our Father's house, we have rebelled against thy authority, we have despised the blessings of thy family.] Father, we have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and are no more worthy to be called thy children.

Blessed be thy name that thou art slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; and that thou hast effectually provided for the forgiveness of our sins, and our restoration to thy favour, in a way fully consistent with the honour of thy perfections and government; even by the mediation of thy dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, [whom thou hast sent into this apostate world, in human flesh, to recall wandering prodigals back to their father's house, and assure them of a gracious welcome. We bless thee that thou hast given him to suffer and die for our sins; the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God.] Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to take away our guilt, and to open

a new and living way of access to thee. O may we be found in him, and be made accepted in the beloved.

Grant us, we beseech thee, repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us so to find out our sins, and discover the evil nature of them, that we may sorrow for them after a godly sort, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance, so that they may never prove our ruin. And do thou enable us to return unto thee, through the blessed Mediator in the way of new obedience. Put thy Spirit within us, and cause us to walk in thy statutes, and keep thy commandments to do them. Dispose us, O God, to the duties of piety towards thee; justice and charity to our neighbours; sobriety and temperance towards ourselves. So engage our hearts towards thyself, by the manifold blessings of thine hand, and especially by the gifts of thy grace in a Redeemer, that we may esteem it our meat and our drink to do thy will.

Continue to us, we beseech thee, gracious God, the health and safety, the prosperity

prosperity and comforts, which thou hast hitherto afforded us, notwithstanding our great unworthiness; and O give us hearts to improve them aright to thy glory. Lord sanctify to us all our enjoyments and employments in the present world. And whatever afflictions thou mayest appoint for us, enable us to see thy hand, and submit to thy will in them. Fit us for all events that may befall us. Sanctify our crosses as well as our comforts, and cause both to work together for our good. Make us humble in a high estate, contented in a low one, and still careful about our souls in all conditions.

We depend on thee, O Lord, for direction and success in all our undertakings. We bless thee that thou hast promised to them that acknowledge thee in all their ways, that thou wilt direct their paths. O Lord, we desire to put ourselves under thy gracious conduct and fatherly protection; that thou mayest chuse our inheritance for us, and dispose of us and all that concerns us, to the glory of thy name. Grant us all things needful and conve-

nient for our present pilgrimage state. Give us day by day our daily bread, and save us at all times from distrusting thy providence. May we be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make our requests known unto God. May we set the Lord always before us, and while we live upon thy bounty, may we continually live to thy praise. And do thou so guide us in all our ways with thy counsel, that thou mayest hereafter receive us to thy glory.

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God our heavenly Father, and the comfortable fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us, and all we ought to pray for, this day and for evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

MOST great and ever-blessed God; we thine unworthy creatures desire at this time, with all humility, to bow ourselves down in thine awful presence, acknowledging thine infinite perfections and glories. [We adore thee, as the first and the last, the greatest and the best of beings; who art possessed of knowledge and power, wisdom and righteousness, holiness and truth, mercy and goodness, beyond what all other beings can conceive.] We pay thee our homage, as the author and support of universal nature, the lord and life of the creation. We acknowledge ourselves thy creatures, whose bodies and souls were formed by thine hand, and are continually maintained by thy care and favour.

Most justly, therefore, mightest thou have expected from us the most constant gratitude, duty, and obedience: but we

humbly confess before thee, with the deepest humiliation, shame and sorrow, that we have been very much wanting in those returns; yea, that we have all grievously offended thee. [We confess, O most holy God, that we are polluted and guilty creatures, and so most unworthy and unfit to appear in thy presence. We were shapen in iniquity, and in sin did our mother conceive us; and we have from our very childhood, been renewing our transgressions in our thoughts, our words, and our actions; and all these are attended with circumstances of high aggravation.] We own and lament, O most gracious Sovereign, that we have in numberless instances broken those wise and holy laws, which thou gavest us for our good; so that we have deserved thy righteous displeasure, and might have been made examples of justice, and spectacles of misery. [We might long since have been cut off from all the comforts of life, and been sent down to everlasting darkness, where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.]

But

But we humbly implore thy pardoning mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord, thine only-begotten and well-beloved Son; who hath by thine appointment, O compassionate Father, visited this world of ours, not only to give us the most excellent instructions, confirmed by the most astonishing miracles, and recommended by the most amiable example; but also to redeem us to God by his blood, and to offer up his own life a sacrifice for us. Who being delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification, is now ascended into heaven, there to make a prevailing intercession for all that come unto God through him.

We would approach thy sacred presence with all becoming regards to him, humbly pleading that atoning blood which he shed on the cross, and that all-perfect merit and righteousness of his, by which alone sinners may draw near unto thee with acceptance. And we entreat thee for his sake, and in regard to our relation to him, fully and freely to forgive us all our numberless transgressions, and to be graciously reconciled

reconciled to us; yea, to take us, unworthy as we are, into the number of thy dear children. For his sake we also humbly entreat thee to free us from the power of sin, and send down, O thou God of all grace, thine Holy Spirit upon our hearts, in a rich abundance, to inspire us with a hatred of every thing that is displeasing to thee, and to form us to a love of universal goodness, and a desire of making continual improvements in it.

[Fill us, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, with a fervent love to thy blessed self. In all things may we be obedient to thine holy precepts, and submissive to thy wise and gracious disposal. May we be united to Christ by a sincere faith, which shall work by love, and shew itself in keeping his commandments. May we be led by the Holy Spirit of God, and cherish his influence on our hearts, as the spirit of holiness and of life. To our brethren of mankind may we be strictly just, and affectionately kind, doing to others as we could reasonably desire they should do to us, and rejoicing in every opportunity of advancing

advancing their temporal or spiritual happiness.]

While we continue here in this uncertain world, give us, if it be thy blessed will, food to eat, and raiment to put on, health of body, and cheerfulness of mind, and whatever other enjoyments thou seest necessary to make our journey through life comfortable. But let us not have our portion on earth. May our hearts be more and more indifferent to it, and our views continually raised above it. [May we learn to govern our appetites and passions, and to deny ourselves in whatever the gospel requires. May our conduct, in every relation and circumstance of life, adorn religion: and may the lustre of our good works engage many around us to glorify our Father in heaven.]

May we remember the shortness of time, and the importance of eternity; and behave in such a manner, that should we be ever so suddenly summoned away, death may not be a terrible, but a joyful surprise. Support us, O Lord, in our last extremities, and help us to honour thee by

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our dying behaviour; receive our departing spirits to the embraces of thy mercy, and give us a triumphant part in the resurrection of the just.

We pray for the advancement of thy gospel in the world, and for the conversion of Jews and Gentiles to the faith as it is in Jesus. We pray for the progress of the reformation, abroad and at home. We recommend to thee our sovereign the King, and all the branches of his family; entreating thee to continue to us, by their means, the invaluable blessing of the Protestant succession. By thy grace animate those who are distinguished by power, riches, or other talents, that they may improve all for the public good. We earnestly pray that the ministers of thy gospel, of every denomination, may with united affection, ardent zeal, and eminent success, be carrying on the work of the Lord.

O thou God of mercy, spread among Christians of every profession a spirit of forbearance, candour, and love. Visit all that are in affliction whether personal or relative,

relative, in mind, body, or estate. Graciously support them under their sorrows, and in thine own time send them deliverance.

We beseech thee to bless us as a family; [whether we preside over it, or belong to it, as children, sojourners, or servants], may we all be found in a faithful discharge of our duty to thee, and to each other. May our united and retired devotions be so performed, as to have the happiest influence on our temper and our lives.

And now, O most merciful Father, we desire with all our hearts to bless thy holy name, for all thy goodness to us, and to the whole human race. We praise thee for our creation and preservation, for health and ease, for food and raiment, for liberty and safety, for friends and success; and, above all, for our redemption by Jesus Christ; for the inestimable privilege of approaching thee through him, and for the rich provision thou hast made in him for the forgiveness of our daily sins, for our receiving all the supplies of grace we stand in need of here, and our enjoying

ing everlasting happiness hereafter. Under a sense of thy mercies, we desire to devote ourselves to thee as the Lord our God, and renew our covenant with thee through Jesus Christ; humbly resolving, by the assistance of thy Spirit, to serve thee with fidelity unto the end of our lives.

We particularly bless thee for the mercies of the day past, and humbly commit ourselves to thy protection and favour this night, intreating thee to guard us from all evil; and to grant that when we next assemble together, we may have reason to unite our praises for the continuance of thy goodness: and O may we be perpetually advancing in our preparation for that world, where we hope to worship thee without any of those imperfections which now attend us. All which we ask and hope, through the merits of thy Son Christ Jesus, in whom we have righteousness and strength, and in whose name and words we conclude our addresses:

Our Father, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

BLESSED God! thou art the great fountain of being and of happiness. As from thee our beings were derived, so from thee our happiness directly flows. The nearer we are to thee, the more pure and delicious is the stream. With thee is the fountain of life: in thy light may we see light. The great object of our final hope is to dwell with thee for ever. O give us now some foretaste of that delight.

Give us, we beseech thee, the blessedness of that man who feareth the Lord, and who delighteth greatly in his commands. So form our hearts by thy grace, that, from day to day, we may set the Lord before us, and be in thy fear all the day long.

To thee may our awaking thoughts be daily directed; and with the first ray of light that visits our eyes, lift up, O Lord,

Lord, the light of thy countenance. When our faculties are roused from sleep, may our first actions be consecrated to thee, O God, who givest us light, and every morning givest us, as it were, a new life. Our voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord, in our retirement, and in our family; in the morning will we direct our prayer unto thee, and will look up. O enable us to pour out our hearts before thee with filial reverence, freedom, and endearment.

With hearts filled with gratitude would we praise thee for past mercies, and in the exercise of a lively faith would we implore fresh blessings, which every returning day requires. We desire with cheerfulness daily to renew the dedication of ourselves to thee through Jesus thy beloved Son: and with attention and pleasure read and hearken to the instructions of thine holy word, that we may know what thou wouldst have us to do. Enable us to hide thy word in our hearts that we may not sin against thee, and earnestly to seek fresh supplies of thy blessed Spirit (whose influences are the life

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of our souls) that we may be quickened in all the duties which it enjoins.

Being thus prepared, do thou, Lord, lead us forth to all the duties and events of the day. In the callings to which thou hast directed us, may we abide with thee: not being slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Teach us the value of time, and enable us always to improve it to the best advantage, in such duties as thou hast assigned us, [how low or painful soever they may be.] To thy glory, O Lord, may the labours of life be pursued, and to thy glory may the refreshments of it be sought and enjoyed. Whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may that end still be kept in view, and may it be attained. May every refreshment and release from business prepare us to serve thee with greater vigour and resolution.

May our eyes be ever watchful to observe the descent of mercies from thee, and may a grateful sense of thy hand, and thy love in them, add a savour and relish to all. While in this world of trial,

may

may we accustom ourselves to expect afflictions, and when they come may we be reconciled to them, by remembering that they come from thee, and by firmly believing that the same love which gives us our daily bread, appoints our daily crosses. May we learn to take them up, and follow our dear Lord, with a temper like that which he manifested when ascending Calvary for our sakes. Like him may we say, in all circumstances of trial, "The "cup which my Father hath given me, "shall I not drink it?"

Keep us, O Lord, we pray thee, from the temptations to which we are daily exposed: or if thou sufferest us to enter into temptation, do thou deliver us from evil. Make us sensible of our own weakness, that our hearts may be raised to thee for needful supplies of strength.

When we are engaged in the society of others, may it be our desire and our care that we may do and receive as much good as possible. May all companies and all persons be the better for us. May we be solicitous daily to be answering the great purposes

purposes of life, by honouring thee, and diffusing knowledge and happiness in the world. Like our blessed Master, may we go about doing good.

When we are alone, may we remember that our heavenly Father is with us: may we enjoy the pleasure of thy presence, and feel the animating power of it, awakening our souls to an earnest desire to think and act as in thy sight.

Thus may this day, and all our days be spent; and let them always be closed in thy fear, and under a sense of thy gracious presence. Help us so to conduct ourselves through the hours of every day, whether at home or abroad, whether in company or alone, whether busy or at rest, that we may be able at the close to review it with satisfaction. And, Lord, dispose us seriously and impartially to review the actions of every day, and to judge ourselves for them, as those who expect to be judged of the Lord, and are solicitous to be approved by thee, who searchest all hearts, and canst not forget any of our works.

May our prayers come up daily before thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands be as the morning and the evening sacrifice. And O give us daily to enjoy the testimony of our consciences, that we have lived to God; so that when the season of nature's repose returns, we may with sweet calmness and serenity resign our powers to sleep, under a cheerful persuasion that we are accepted of thee, in Christ Jesus our Lord, and humbly hoping in thy mercy through him, whether our days on earth be prolonged, or cut off in the midst.

Help us, O Lord, to spend every day in the view of our last, and so as to fit us for it. If death comes by a slow advance, may it at length find us still thus employed; and if we should be called on a sudden to exchange worlds, may our last days and hours be so spent, as to furnish no occasion for remorse or fear. Whenever, or however we are called from this state of trial, may we have a sweet and easy passage from the services of time, to the

the infinitely nobler services of an immortal state. We ask it through Him who, while on earth, was the fairest pattern of every virtue, and who now lives and reigns with thee, able to save to the uttermost. To Him, having done all, would we fly, with the most humble acknowledgment that we are unprofitable servants. And unto Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

BLESSED God, we humbly adore thee as the father of lights, and the giver of every good and perfect gift. From thee we seek every blessing, and especially those which may lead us to thyself, and prepare us for the enjoyment of thee.

Thou searchest the heart and triest the reins of the children of men. Search us, O God, and know our hearts, try us and know our thoughts: see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Give us to know what spirits we are of, and preserve us from mistaking where the error might be fatal.

May we, O Lord, be renewed in the spirit of our minds. A new heart do thou give us, and a new spirit do thou put within us. Make us partakers of a divine nature; and as thou who hast called us art holy, may we be holy in all manner of conversation. May the same mind be in us which

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was also in Christ Jesus, and may we walk even as he walked. Deliver us from being carnally minded, which is death, and make us spiritually minded, since that is life and peace. While we pass through this world of sense, enable us to walk by faith and not by sight; yea, may we be strong in faith, giving glory to God.

May thy grace, O Lord, which hath appeared unto all men, and unto us, with such glorious evidence and lustre, effectually teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly. Work in our hearts that godliness which is profitable unto all things, and teach us by the blessed influences of thy Spirit to love thee the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. May we yield ourselves unto thee, as alive from the dead, and present our bodies living sacrifices, holy, acceptable in thy sight, which is our most reasonable service.

May we entertain the most faithful and affectionate regards to the blessed Jesus,

thine incarnate Son, the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person. Him, having not seen, may we love, and though now we see him not, yet believing may we rejoice, with joy unspeakable and full of glory. May the life which we live in the flesh be by the faith of the Son of God.

May we be filled with the Spirit, and be so led by the Spirit of God, as to make it evident, to ourselves and others, that we are the children of God, and heirs of glory. May we not receive the spirit of bondage unto fear, but the spirit of adoption, whereby we may be enabled to cry, Abba, Father. May the Spirit of God work in us a spirit of love, and of power, and of a sound mind, that so we may add to our faith, virtue. May we be strong and very courageous, acquitting ourselves like men, and like Christians, in our work and warfare, under the banners of the great Captain of our salvation.

Teach us, O Lord, seriously to consider the nature of our own souls, and to set a suitable value upon them. May we labour

bour not only, or chiefly, for the meat that perisheth, but for that which endureth to eternal life. Help us to cherish and to exercise all the personal graces of the Spirit in our minds. May we humble ourselves under thy mighty hand, and be clothed with humility; decked with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price. May we be found among the pure in heart, who are so blessed as to see God. Help us to mortify our members which are in the earth, so that we may be willing to part with the lusts that are as dear to us as a right hand or eye. May we be temperate in all things, content with such things as we have, and instructed to be so in whatever state we are. May patience also have its perfect work in us, that we may be in that respect perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Form us, O Lord, we beseech thee, to a proper temper towards our fellow-creatures. May we love our neighbour as ourselves, and whatsoever we would that others should do unto us, may we also do

the same unto them. May we put on meekness under the greatest provocations; and, if it be possible, as much as lieth in us, may we live peaceably with all men. May we be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful. May we ever speak the truth from our hearts, and speak it in love; guarding against every instance of a censorious and malignant diposition; and taking care not to judge severely, as we would not be judged, which thou, Lord, knowest, and our own consciences know, we should not be able to support.

We humbly intreat thee, O Lord, to work in us all these branches of the christian temper, which may be acceptable to thee, and prove ornamental to our profession in the world. [Renew, we beseech thee, a right spirit within us: make us Israelites indeed, in whom there is no guile. While we feast on Christ as our passover sacrificed for us, may we keep the feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. And O thou unchangeable God, make us stedfast and immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, as knowing

knowing that our labour in the Lord shall not finally be in vain.]

To preserve us from sin, may our hearts be tender, easily impressed with thy word and providences; touched with an affectionate concern for thy glory, and sensible of every impulse of thy Spirit. May we be zealous for our God, with a zeal according to knowledge and charity. Teach us, in thy service, to join the wisdom of the serpent with the innocence of the dove.

Make us ever attentive to the duties incumbent upon us, as members of civil society, and of the church of Christ, that we may give no offence. Enable us to conduct ourselves wisely and well as members of a christian family. May the heads of the family walk before their house in a perfect way, commanding their children and household after them to keep the ways of the Lord. May the children of the family obey their parents in the Lord, love one another, and remember thee their Creator now in the days of their youth. May the servants in this house be faithful

to their trust, diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Thus may the blessing of God, the Father and Lord of all, rest continually upon us for good. Thus may the image of our dear Redeemer shine bright in our characters; and thus may we be formed to a growing meetness for that world where he dwells, and where we shall be completely like him, because we shall see him as he is.

We ask all in his name, who hath loved us, and given himself for us, that he might redeem us unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works, unto whom be ascribed glory and honour, salvation and praise, now and for ever. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most glorious Jehovah; we adore thee as the God of nature, the God of providence, and the God of grace. As from thee all creatures received their beings, so on thee they constantly depend. With the deepest humility would we prostrate ourselves before thy throne, and acknowledge our constant and entire dependance upon thee, not only for the continuance and the comforts of our natural lives, but for the safety and welfare of our souls, in time and to eternity. We confess not only that we are guilty creatures, and as such need thy pardoning mercy, but also that we are depraved and impotent creatures, and as such stand in absolute need of thy renewing and strengthening grace.

We desire sincerely and humbly to acknowledge before thee our own weakness

and insufficiency for any thing that is spiritually good. We have experienced it a thousand times; and yet our foolish hearts are too prone to trust in themselves, and form resolutions in their own strength. Give us, we pray thee, a more deep and effectual conviction of our impotence, and bring us to a more humble distrust of ourselves, and a more entire repose on thee.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the kind assurance which thou hast given us, of thy readiness to bestow liberally upon us all the assistance which we want, in order to a successful opposition against sin and temptation, and the acceptable performance of all the arduous duties of the divine life. In compliance with thy condescending invitation, we come with boldness to the throne of thy grace, that we may find grace to help in every time of need; and would earnestly plead thine own gracious promise, O heavenly Father, to give thy Spirit unto them that ask it.

God forbid that we should entertain the thought of turning thy grace into wantonness, or perverseness, or of making our weak-

weakness an excuse for negligence and sloth! We confess, thou hast already given us more strength than we have used; and we charge it upon ourselves, and not on thee, that we have not received more abundant supplies. We desire for the future to be found diligent in the use of all appointed means. In the neglect of these, we know that our petitions would be a profane mockery, which might justly provoke thee to take away thine holy Spirit from us. We would therefore resolve to exert ourselves to the uttermost, and earnestly entreat the communications of thy grace, that we may be enabled to fulfil our resolutions.

Be thou surety, O Lord, unto thy servants for good. Be pleased to shed abroad thy sanctifying influences on our souls, to form us for every duty which thou requirest. Implant every christian grace and virtue deep in our hearts, and maintain and strengthen them amidst all the assaults both from within and without, to which we are continually liable, while we

are in this world, where we carry about with us so many infirmities.

Fill our breasts, we beseech thee, with good affections towards thee our God, and towards our fellow-creatures. Help us always to realize thy presence, and to remember that every secret sentiment of our souls is open to thee. Under such a conviction, may we guard against the first risings of sin, and the first approaches to it. And that Satan may not find room for his evil suggestions, we pray that thou, Lord, wilt fill our hearts with thy Spirit, and take up thy residence there. Dwell in us, and walk with us, and let our bodies be the temples of the Holy Ghost.

May we be so joined to Christ Jesus our Lord, as to become one spirit with him, and feel his invigorating influences continually bearing us on, superior to every temptation, and to every corruption; that while the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men utterly fall, we may so wait upon the Lord as to renew our spiritual strength, to run without weariness, to walk

walk without fainting, yea to fly as on the wings of eagles towards heaven. May we be going on continually, from one degree of faith and love, of holiness and zeal, unto another, till we appear perfect before thee in Zion, to drink in immortal vigour and joy from thee, the everlasting fountain of both.

While we are here, we are surrounded with dangers and difficulties. Blessed God, to thine almighty power we flee. O thou that savest by thy right hand them that put their trust in thee, stretch out thine omnipotent arm to save us. We put ourselves under thy protection; let thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy strength be made perfect in our weakness. We dare not say, we will never forsake or deny thee; but we hope we can say, that we would not do it. O root out those corruptions from our hearts, which, in an hour of pressing temptation, might alter our views, and betray us into the hands of the enemy.

Strengthen our faith, O Lord; encourage our hope, and inspire us with an heroic

roic resolution, in opposing every thing that obstructs us in our way to heaven. May we set our faces like a flint against all the assaults of earth and hell. If sinners entice, let us not consent: if they insult, let us not regard it: if they threaten, let us not fear. May we never be ashamed to plead thy cause against the most profane deriders of religion; but may we be filled with courage, charity, and zeal, to teach transgressors thy ways, that sinners may be converted unto thee.

Keep us, O God, at all times, by thy mighty power, and on that may we always rely. Never let us think ourselves strong enough to maintain the combat without thee; nor yet imagine ourselves so weak that thou canst not support us.

Wherever thou leadest us, there let us follow, and whatever station thou appointest for us, there let us labour. In the midst of dangers and discouragements, may we look unto Jesus, the captain of our salvation, the great author and finisher of our faith; and may we finally be made more than conquerors through him that hath

hath loved us, in whom we have righteousness and strength, and unto whom be ascribed salvation and honour, blessing and praise, now and for ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

EVER-BLESSED and glorious Lord; thou art a great God, and a great King, above all gods. The earth is thine, and the fulness thereof: the world, and all they that dwell therein. We are thine, for thou madest us, and on thee we entirely depend for the continuance of life and all its enjoyments. It is most fit that we should daily acknowledge our dependence upon thee, and our obligations to thee, in united acts of prayer and praise.

We prostrate our souls this evening before thy throne, to tender thee the homage which is thy due; and under a sense of our great unworthiness we beg to be accepted through Jesus Christ.

We bless thee for the beings thou hast given us, and for all the powers of body and of mind with which we are endowed. We praise thee for the continual care of thy providence over us by night and by day,

day, and for the numberless blessings with which our lives are crowned. How precious are thy thoughts unto us, O God; if we would count them, they are more than can be numbered.

We particularly praise thee for the safety and the comforts of the day past. Under a sense of thy former kindness, we commit ourselves and each other to thy future care. May we this night rest secure under the shadow of thy wings, and let thy good providence continue to be exercised for our protection and comfort through all the remaining days of our lives on earth. Under an apprehension of the manifold dangers and calamities to which we are ever liable in this present evil world, we flee to thee as our only refuge. Be thou pleased to take the charge of us, and we shall be secure from evil, and our hearts shall not fear. O thou great shepherd of Israel, whose watchful eye is ever upon them that trust in thee, preserve us lying down and rising up, going out and coming in, from this time forth and for ever.

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But we would more especially be solicitous for the safety and happiness of our souls.

Blessed God; in the midst of ten thousand snares and dangers, from without, and from within, permit us to look up to thee as the God of salvation, to whom belong the issues from death. Let thine eyes be upon us for good, and keep these souls of ours from whatever would involve them in guilt and ruin.

When we are tempted to sloth and indolence, awaken us, we pray thee, with the lively views of that invisible and eternal world to which we are tending; and engage us to remember the infinite importance of diligently improving those transient moments which thou hast allotted us to prepare for it.

When sinners entice us, may we not consent, but may holy converse with thee give us a disrelish for the society of those who are strangers to thee, and would separate our souls from thee. May we honour them that fear the Lord, and by walking with

with wise and holy men, may we be daily advancing in wisdom and holiness.

Guard us, O Lord, from the love of sensual pleasure. May we remember that to be carnally minded is death. Purify and refine our souls by the influences of thy Holy Spirit, that we may always shun unlawful gratifications; and enable us to use the allowed indulgencies of animal nature with sobriety and moderation, that the comforts of life may not be the occasions of sin. May we ever remember the superior dignity of our intelligent and spiritual nature, and pursue the pleasures of the man and the christian as our noblest happiness: above all, may we aspire after those pleasures which are at thy right hand for evermore.

Preserve us, O God, from that pride which goeth before destruction, and that lust of ambition by which so many have fallen. Promote in us that humility and lowliness of mind which so well becomes the disciples of the blessed Jesus. May we learn of him who was meek and lowly in heart. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from

from covetousness, which is idolatry, and that love of the world which is enmity with God. Let us not make haste to be rich, nor seek great things for ourselves on earth, remembering that the love of money is the root of all evil. And if riches increase, let us not set our hearts upon them. May our desires after worldly possessions, and our delight in them, be moderated by considering their uncertain and unsatisfying nature; and while others are laying up for themselves treasures on earth, may we be rich towards God.

Deliver us from all those excessive cares about the things of this life in general, which would so engross our time and thoughts, that the one thing needful would be forgotten. May we never be too busy about the most lawful things, to attend to those great affairs which lie between thee and our souls: never so taken up with the concerns of time, as to neglect the interests of eternity.

Deliver us from all those fleshly lusts which war against the soul, and from all those vices of the mind which tend to grieve

grieve thy good Spirit, and to banish peace and joy from the heart.

Especially we pray, that thou wilt deliver us from the sins which do most easily beset us, and enable us to set a special guard against them. Help us continually to watch and pray, that we may not enter into temptation, and to keep our hearts with all diligence, since out of them are the issues of life.

We lament it, that, through our neglect of watchfulness and prayer, we have so often yielded to temptation, and fallen into sin. Mercifully pardon all our past neglects; make us more circumspect for the time to come; and do thou, O God of all grace, keep us from falling, and preserve us by thy mighty power, through faith unto salvation.

Our safety and happiness is in thee alone. On thy power, grace, and faithfulness will we rely, and to thy name shall be all the glory, through Jesus Christ our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

MOST glorious and ever-blessed Jehovah; we humbly adore thee as the Creator and Lord of all: the wise and holy, and gracious governor of the universe, whom all thy rational creatures are bound, by duty and by interest, to worship, love, and obey.

As we were made by thee, so we were made for thee, and our best service is thy due. Blessed be thy name that thou hast so fully instructed us what is thy mind and will concerning us. [We thank thee that we are not left to the mere light of nature, to learn the knowledge of thyself, and of our duty to thee, but that by a revelation from heaven, thou hast clearly shewed us what is good, and what thou the Lord our God requirest of us; even that we should do justly, and love mercy, and walk humbly with thee.] With sorrow and shame we confess our manifold violations of thy wise

wise and holy law, whereby we have exposed ourselves to the curse which it denounces. As thy law demands perfect obedience, and we are all transgressors of it, we are convinced that by the deeds of the law no flesh living can be justified.

[For ever adored be thy name for the provisions of thy grace, in Jesus Christ, for the justification and salvation of fallen men; and for that new and better covenant which thou hast established with thy beloved Son, and with us in him, according to which we may hope to find favour in thy sight.] We thank thee, O Lord, for that blessed gospel which thou hast sent among us, in which the glad tidings of salvation by Jesus Christ are proclaimed. [And we bless thee that therein thou hast so fully acquainted us how we may obtain salvation by him. We acknowledge the wisdom and reasonableness of thy requirements; that we should unfeignedly repent of all our sins; that we should believe in Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent; and that we should bring forth the fruits of new obedience. And adored be thy name,

that what thy wisdom requires, thy grace enables us to perform.] O God, teach us to form right views of the religion of the gospel, and give us to experience the life and power of it in our souls.

We make a profession of Christianity: God forbid that we should rest in a mere profession! but grant that we may be Christians in deed and in truth. O suffer us not to deceive ourselves in a matter of such infinite importance.

O Lord God omniscient, thou searchest all hearts, and triest the reins of the children of men: search thou our hearts, and try our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us into the way everlasting. Enable us also frequently and impartially to examine ourselves, as in thy sight; and let our own consciences testify whether we are possessed of that repentance towards God, and that faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, which the gospel requires; and whether we have been brought to that new, universal, and cheerful obedience, which is the genuine and necessary fruit thereof.

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If hitherto we are any of us utter strangers to these things, convince us of our guilt and danger, and let that blessed Spirit, who is the author of the new creation, create us anew in Christ Jesus. [O represent sin to us in all its odious colours, that we may feel an irreconcileable hatred to it. Give us such views of thy majesty and mercy that our hearts may be alarmed and melted. Smite the rock, that the waters of genuine and evangelical repentance may flow. Shew us that we have undone ourselves, but that our help is found in God alone through Jesus Christ. May the Spirit take of the things of Christ and shew them unto us. Shew us his power and willingness to save unto the uttermost.]

Work in us that faith which is the operation of God. Direct us to behold Jesus, as labouring, suffering, dying, and ascending, for the salvation of sinners. Give us faith in the efficacy of his righteousness, atonement, and intercession, and enable us to come unto him that we may have

life, and to rely upon him for complete salvation.

May we know what it is to have our whole hearts subdued by his love, so as to be crucified with him, to be dead to sin, to be mortified to the world, but alive unto God. Make us to bear his image, to obey his laws, to pursue his service, to seek his glory, to promote his cause.

Whatever there be wanting in us, to constitute us real Christians, Lord discover it to us, and work it in us. Beat down every false presumptuous hope, and let us know the worst of ourselves while yet there is remedy. If any secret sin be lurking in our hearts, root it out, however painful the operation. May all old things pass away, and all things become new.

If we are Christians indeed, and have received the grace of God in truth, give us the comfortable evidence of thy good work begun. May thy Spirit witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. Make us more sensible of our imperfections, more humble for them, more desi-

rous and diligent to have them removed. Do thou, O God, perfect what is lacking in our knowledge and in our faith, and fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness. [Enrich our souls with all the graces of thy Spirit. Form us to the compleat image of thy Son. Help us to walk in all the ordinances of the Lord blameless, and to abound in all the fruits of righteousness to thy praise. Establish our souls in thy good way. Make us useful in the stations wherein thou hast placed us, and grant that, by an exemplary deportment in life, and a continual progress in knowledge, faith, holiness, and love, we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, and be gradually ripening for glory. And God grant that none of us may fall short of it.]

We praise thee for thy continued goodness to us. We commend ourselves, and all that are dear unto us, to thy future care. May thy providence guard and provide for us this day, and may thy grace enable us every day to live in thy

fear. Pardon, accept, and bless us, O Father of mercies, through thy dear Son Jesus Christ, who is our hope, in whom believing we would rejoice, and desire to be found, living, dying, and for ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O Thou ever-blessed, glorious, and gracious God, who art the fountain both of the natural and spiritual life; we thy dependent and obliged creatures are once more met together to make our united acknowledgments to thee; to praise thee for the mercies we have already received, and to implore future blessings according to our necessities both for the body and the soul.

We thank thee, O God, that thou gavest us life at first, and that amidst so many dangers, and so many provocations, we continue to live, and to enjoy so many of the comforts of life. It is thy visitation which upholds our spirits, and thy free, unmerited goodness which gives us whatever contributes to render our lives happy. Blessed be God for all our enjoyments of an outward nature, both personal and relative. May they be continued to us, and

O may they be wisely improved! While we live, may we live unto the Lord. If any of us are as yet dead in trespasses and sins, do thou raise us to a new, a spiritual, and divine life.

Adored be the riches of thy grace, if any of us have ground to hope that thou hast begun this good work in us. We lament the imperfections of it, and pray that thou wilt strengthen what thou hast wrought. It is our earnest desire that we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Form our minds to those right notions of religion on which our progress in it so much depends. Give us a growing acquaintance with thee, with ourselves, and with the doctrines, precepts, and promises of the glorious gospel.

We would be seeking after an increase of love to thee our God and Father in Christ Jesus; of resignation to thy wise and holy will, and of benevolence to our fellow-creatures. May we grow in patience and fortitude of soul; in humility and zeal; in spirituality and a heavenly disposition

disposition of mind; in a concern for thy glory, and a conformity to thine image. May we feel a growing ambition that whether present or absent we may be accepted of thee, and may be continually improving in our likeness to thee, so that we may be advancing in our meetness for that world, where thy saints behold thy face in righteousness, and are satisfied with thy likeness.

[We are convinced, O Lord, that we have not as yet attained, and well may our souls be confounded to think how far we are from being already perfect. But this one thing would we do: forgetting the things which are behind, we would reach forth unto those things which are before, and be continually pressing towards the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.]

We desire and pray that, while we are continued in this world, we may be rendered more extensively useful. We bless thee, thou bountiful author of all good, for the talents with which thou hast en-

trusted us. We have cause to be ashamed and confounded before thee, when we consider to how little purpose we have hitherto improved them. [Alas! what have we done, in proportion to what might have been expected, with the gifts of nature which thou hast bestowed, with our time, our possessions, our opportunities in life, and our influence over others! We have indeed been as a barren wilderness, when we might have been as a fruitful field.] Justly might we be condemned as slothful and unprofitable servants. Of thy mercy forgive the debt of ten thousand talents which we owe thee, and enable us more entirely to devote ourselves and all we have unto thee, acknowledging that it is of thine own we give thee. Make us faithful stewards to our great Lord, from whom we have received all we have, and to whom we must shortly render a strict account. May we think of no interest of our own, in opposition to thine, or as separate from it; but consider it as most effectually living to ourselves, when we live most unto thee. Under a growing

sense of thy love to us, may we feel an increasing love to our brethren of mankind; and as we have ability and opportunity may we be ready to do good unto all. Whatever of the good things of this life thou hast lodged in our hands, for their relief, may we be thy faithful almoners; and while we give liberally may we do it with discretion, so as to answer the best ends. And do thou multiply the seed sown, and so prosper us in our worldly affairs, if it be thy blessed will, that we may have more to impart to them that need.

Whatever be our talents, may they not be hid: and if thou givest any of us but one, may that be improved with care, as what is to be accounted for to the Lord of all.

May we be particularly concerned to be useful to those with whom we are most intimately connected in life, in promoting their spiritual and eternal interests. May we of this family be more useful to one another, especially in our best concerns; and may the heads of the family in parti-

cular be the instruments of great and everlasting good to all committed to their charge.

We wish well to the whole human race; and as an expression of our love to them, we would affectionately recommend them to thy tender compassion, who art able to do for them above all that we can ask or think. Have pity upon the world that lies in wickedness, and let the gospel every where be the power of God unto salvation. Bless our country, and let thy favour extend to all ranks of men. Promote among us that righteousness which exalteth a nation. Awaken the zeal, and succeed the labours, of thy ministers and thy people, for the honour of Christ, and the salvation of souls. Shew mercy to all in distress. Be a friend to all our friends, and let our worst enemies obtain thy salvation. We ask all in the name, and as the disciples, of the benevolent Saviour of men, who went about continually doing good, and loved us even unto death; unto whom be glory for ever. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL and unchangeable Jehovah; the creator of heaven and earth, the Lord of angels and men; we desire with the deepest humiliation of soul to fall down, at this time, in thine awful presence, and present ourselves before thee. O penetrate our hearts with a becoming sense of thine unutterable glories, and thy condescending goodness.

Who are we, O Lord, or what is our house, that we should be permitted to speak unto thee, or to entertain any expectation of finding favour with thee? [Well might we blush and tremble to appear in thy majestic presence. But great as is thy majesty, so also is thy mercy. Blessed be thy name, that in Jesus the Son of thy love, thou condescendest to visit sinful mortals, and to allow their approach to thee, and their covenant intercourse with thee. To thee, there-

therefore, would we come, invited by thine own mercy, in the name of thy dear Son, trusting in his righteousness and intercession, and with the humble publican smiting upon our breasts, saying, God be merciful to us sinners.]

We acknowledge, O Lord, that we have been great transgressors. The irregular propensities of our corrupt nature have, in thousands of instances, wrought to bring forth fruit unto death. If thou shouldest be strict to mark our offences, we must immediately sink into destruction. But adored be thy grace, thou hast called thy wandering sheep, thy prodigal children, to return unto thee. Behold therefore, O Lord, we come unto thee, convinced of our folly as well as our sin, in having departed from thee. Be thou merciful to our unrighteousness, and remember not our transgressions against us.

And enable us, with the utmost sincerity, to surrender ourselves unto thee. We would avouch thee the Lord to be our God, and give up ourselves to thee as thy people. O accept us as thine own,

and

and grant that we may henceforth be entirely thine: thine for ever. Help us cordially to renounce all other lords which have had dominion over us; every sin, and every lust: the world, and Satan the god of it, who have usurped the empire over our souls; and enable us to reject all the temptations which they may offer, to seduce our hearts from thee.

To thee, O God, we desire to present the whole frame of our nature; all the members of our body, and all the faculties of our minds, as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God, which we know to be our most reasonable service. To thee also would we consecrate all our worldly possessions, to be enjoyed and laid out for thine honour. And the remainder of our time on earth we desire to spend in thy service. O do thou instruct and enable us to employ every year and day and hour so as shall most promote thine honour. Whatever influence thou givest us over others, help us to improve it for thy glory and their good. May we

resolve

resolve especially that we and our house shall serve the Lord.

We desire also humbly to resign ourselves to thy disposal, and to submit to thy holy and sovereign will. To thy direction would we leave all our concerns, and to thy disposal would we would yield ourselves, and all we possess. Continue or remove, bestow or refuse, whatsoever thou pleasest. Whatever thou doest with us or ours, may we not only submit, but acquiesce; and even under thy most afflictive dispensations, may we bless the name of the Lord. Father, not our will but thine be done.

Use us, O Lord, we beseech thee, as instruments of thy glory, and honour us so far as, either by doing or suffering what thou shalt appoint, to bring some revenue of praise to thee, and of benefit to the world. May we henceforth consider ourselves as not our own but thine: no longer strangers and foreigners, but thy peculiar people, fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. Being devoted

to

to thee as thy people, enable us to rejoice in thee as our God in an everlasting covenant.

We confess, O Lord, our utter unworthiness of this honour and privilege, and our insufficiency for the duties which we owe thee. Wash us, we beseech thee, in the blood of thy Son, clothe us with his righteousness, and sanctify us by the Spirit of thy grace. Destroy more and more the power of sin in our hearts; transform us more into thine own image, and form us to a resemblance of the blessed Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our teacher and our example, our sacrifice, and intercessor. Communicate to us the needful influences of thy enlightening, quickening, and comforting Spirit. Lift up upon us the light of thy countenance, and enable us to go on our way rejoicing.

And when we have done and suffered thy will on earth, remove us hence when and how thou pleasest; only grant that in our dying moments we may be enabled to glorify thee, and that with our last breath

we

we may shew forth thy praise. Place underneath us thine everlasting arms, put strength and confidence into our departing spirits, and receive us into the embraces of thine everlasting love. We ask all through Jesus, the great Mediator of the covenant, to whom, with thee, O Father, and thine Holy Spirit, be everlasting praises ascribed. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto thy name, O Lord, and to shew forth thy praises, O thou Most High. Morning and evening to speak of thy faithfulness, and to talk of all thy wonderful works. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name. Inspire our hearts, O our God, with a deeper sense of thy goodness, and enable us with unfeigned love and gratitude to make our acknowledgements to thee.

Thou art the author of our natures, the God of our lives, the fountain of all our comforts, and the foundation of all our hopes. We bless thee for these bodies which thou hast given us, which are fearfully and wonderfully made; and we praise thee that thou preservest them in health and vigour, so that we are capable of relishing the entertainments which thou providest

videst for our senses, and of acting with vivacity in thy service.

We bless thee especially for these souls of ours, which thou hast created, whereby we are allied to angels, and formed after thine own image. We thank thee that thou hast made us capable of enquiring after God our maker, of rendering thee a rational homage, and of enjoying thy favour for ever. We bless thee for the knowledge with which thou hast adorned our minds, and especially for that grace which thou hast given us in Jesus Christ, for our deliverance from that guilt and condemnation, in which the whole world is involved, and for the renewing and sanctifying influence of thine Holy Spirit.

We bless thee for that royal bounty with which thou providest for our daily support and entertainment. Thou spreadest a table for us in the wilderness, and causest our cup to overflow. And we desire to be thankful that we do not partake of the bounties of thy providence alone, but that we have so many agreeable friends

to

to share them with us. Thanks be to God for the blessings of social life in general, and particularly for our domestic and family enjoyments: for so many dear relatives at home, as well as friends abroad, who are able and disposed to serve us in the various offices of love.

Nor would we forget to acknowledge thy favour in rendering us in any way capable of serving others. Whatever ability, and whatever inclination we possess, for promoting the good of our fellow-creatures, this also cometh from thee.

[We would also take a benevolent pleasure in thinking of that happiness which thou art every where diffusing among thy creatures. Thou art good to all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. The earth, O Lord, is full of thy riches. Blessed be thy name for those bounties of thy providence of which thy creatures partake here below. But with peculiar pleasure would we think of the blessedness of every saint and angel that surrounds thy throne above. For ever adored be thy name for the reviving hope thou givest us,

of

of one day participating with them in their compleat and eternal felicity, and for all the means which thou affordest us to prepare us for it.]

On the survey of the exceeding riches of thy bounty, we find ourselves constrained to love thee above all the powers of language to express. [Blessed God, draw forth the devout affections of our hearts towards thee, and enable us to delight ourselves in thee as a being who art altogether lovely.

May we love thee for what thou art to thy creatures, who are every moment deriving happiness from thee, in numbers and degrees far beyond what we can conceive. But yet more may we adore and love thee for what thou art in thyself: for that infinite perfection which makes thee thine own happiness, thine own end, infinitely venerable and lovely.]

O thou greatest and best of beings, possess our souls with a supreme delight in thyself, and cause us to long after more abundant communications of thy favour, and a nearer conformity to thy will and to thy

thy blessed nature. Withdraw our affections more from all created objects, and engage us to return unto thee, and repose ourselves in thee as our rest, who hast dealt so bountifully with us. Thou art our father and our friend for time and for eternity. As such may we cheerfully commit ourselves to thee for both, leaving it to thee to choose our inheritance, and to order all our affairs; while we make it all our business to serve thee, and all our delight to praise thee. O may our souls follow hard after thee, and still press on towards thee, and may thy right hand uphold us, till all our desires be accomplished in the full enjoyment of thee.

Amidst all the difficulties and dangers of our mortal pilgrimage, may we feel ourselves supported and borne forward by thine almighty arm, towards the region of blessedness. May we be waiting for thy salvation, with ardent desire, and yet with calm resignation, while we are found doing thy commandments. May our loins be girt about, and our lamps be burning, as those who are waiting for their Lord; and

O grant

O grant that we may be found of him in peace. The close of every week and every day bring us nearer to the close of life. O that every week and every day may find us wiser and better; more fit to leave this world, and to enter into the heavenly state.

We pray that thy blessing may be upon all thy people: feed thine inheritance, and lift them up for ever. May every christian society flourish in knowledge, holiness, and love. Clothe thy ministers with salvation, that by their means thy chosen people may be made joyful. Cause a glorious accession to thy churches every where. May converts fly to Jesus as a cloud, and as doves to their windows. May thy table, O Lord, be furnished with guests, and may all that love thy salvation, say, "Let the Lord be magnified, "who hath pleasure in the prosperity of "his servants." We pray that those who profess to have received Christ Jesus the Lord may be duly careful to walk in him.

Grant that the solemnities of thine house [*and of thy table*] on the ensuing day,

day, may be blessed to us and to our fellow-worshippers; and that by all the services of thy church below, we may be preparing to join the general assembly and church of the first-born above. We present these our imperfect praises and prayers to thee in the all-prevailing name of Jesus, who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and ever liveth to make intercession for us: to whom be honour and dominion everlasting: Amen!

SATURDAY EVENING,

OR,

LORD'S DAY MORNING,

PREVIOUS TO THE LORD'S SUPPER.

GREAT and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty. What then art thou thyself, whose power produced and sustains, whose wisdom contrived and directs, whose goodness crowns them all. Our souls are quickly lost in the contemplation of thee. But yet we delight in the celebration of thy praises. We bless thee, O our God, that thou hast made of one flesh and blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth, and determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation, that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him and find him. We bless thee that thou hast, in the course of thy providence,

vidence, so ordered the circumstances of our birth and education, that we should be partakers of the grace of the gospel from our earliest years, and know the wonderful works of God; even those things which many prophets and kings desired to see and hear, but could not.

We bless and magnify thy name for all our powers as reasonable creatures; for all the testimonies of thy paternal care; for all the effects of thy common bounty and goodness, in the course of our lives. But more especially we praise thee for thy distinguishing grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. While we glory and rejoice in him we cannot forget to pray, that all mankind may enjoy the same happiness. O may the whole world know that thou hast so loved it, as to give thine only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life!

Hear, O most gracious God, the prayers of thy faithful people for the enlargement of that kingdom of truth and righteousness which thou hast set up among men; and that the religion of Jesus may be professed

and practised, in its native simplicity, wherever it is propagated. Grace be with all them that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. May their numbers continually increase, and their consolations abound. May the multitude of them that believe be of one heart and one soul: and may the church of Christ appear to be the school in which immortal souls are trained up for the more perfect worship, and the everlasting felicity of the heavenly world.

O let us not receive the grace of God in vain. Let it not be in vain that we have been so fully taught the way of the Lord; that we have had such assistances both external and internal: that we have enjoyed every sort of encouragement to abound in all the fruits of holiness, which are by Christ Jesus to the praise and glory of God.

Pardon us, O most merciful Father, that we have made thee returns so unsuitable to thy great goodness towards us: so disproportioned to the vast and numberless obligations which thou hast laid us under, and the repeated engagements which we have

have taken upon ourselves. O forgive the coldness of our love to thee: our sloth and inactivity in thy service: the small proficiency we have made in the virtues of the christian and divine life, notwithstanding the advantage of so excellent a rule, so perfect an example, so free access to the throne of thy grace, such powerful aids from thy blessed Spirit, and so glorious a prospect as that set before us.

O may the consideration of thy readiness to pardon, fill us with an ingenuous hatred and detestation of all sin. And may we discover such a care to avoid it, and to shun all the occasions of it, and the temptations to it for the future, as shall be a satisfying evidence that all our iniquities are actually forgiven, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect to do thy will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in thy sight; fulfilling in us the good plea-

sure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power.

Bless to us the external means of thy grace. Help us to bear in mind the design of one duty to dispose for another; and of all the instrumental duties of religion to beget and strengthen in our souls those exalted principles, and fixed habits of true goodness, by which we shall be more and more ripened for the life of heaven. By faith may we see him who is invisible, and always walk as in his presence.

May we be more affected and influenced by the contemplation of an absent Saviour, in every view of him. [While we meditate on the blessed Jesus, as enduring the contradiction of sinners, and humbling himself unto death, even the death of the cross, may we be instructed what to expect in the present life, and how to behave under all the afflictions and sufferings of it. And may the view of a risen Saviour elevate our hearts above all the vanities of this transitory state, to that happy world whither he our Lord, and the forerunner of all the faithful,

faithful, is gone.] May we know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, and count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, for whose sake may we be willing to suffer the loss of all things, not counting our lives dear to us, so that we may finish our course with joy.

Give us, O Lord, to feel more of the mighty power of thy grace, concurring with the gospel of thy Son, to mortify every inordinate desire, to confirm every good purpose, to purify and regulate our affections, and to change our whole souls more and more into a divine likeness. May our love to thee be supreme, though it can never be adequate to thine excellencies: may our devotion towards thee be unaffected and fervent: our resignation entire; our obedience cheerful, uniform and constant. Towards men may we ever be just and charitable, kindly affectioned, ready to do good, as we have ability and opportunity; carrying it towards all with a mild, a peaceable, and christian spirit.

With respect to ourselves, may we be sober-minded, poor in spirit, and pure in heart. Help us to be continually opposing all mental irregularities, and daily gaining the victory over them. Help us to deny ourselves, to be temperate in all things, to bridle our tongues, and to labour to be examples of patience, meekness, contentment, humbleness of mind, and to come behind in no good thing; looking for the mercy of God unto eternal life. That so when we have done the work which thou hast given us to do, and suffered all that thou sawest meet to appoint, for the trial of our faith, hope, and submission to thy will, we may finally inherit the promises which thou hast made us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the prospect of that happy state would we now say, Blessing and honour, and glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

The

The LORD'S PRAYER, *paraphrased in the Words of the Assembly*.*

O Thou high and holy One who inhabitest eternity, and art far exalted above all blessing and praise; in whom it is condescension to accept the worship of angels; we adore thee that thou hast revealed thyself as a God who heareth prayer; and that, as such, thou invitest all flesh to come unto thee.

Blessed ~~by~~ be thy name that, for the encouragement of such unworthy creatures as we are, thou hast appointed and revealed a glorious mediator between thyself and us, even Jesus Christ the righteous. And we thank thee that, in compassion to our infirmities, thou hast, in thy holy word, both taught us how to pray, and what to pray for. We bless thee

* This (with the Introduction) may be used as a distinct form, when brevity is required, or otherwise be added to another prayer.

also that our Lord Jesus Christ, who came immediately from the Father, hath shewed us the way to the Father, and given us acceptable words to take with us in our applications to thy throne, even those which he gave to his disciples. After this manner, therefore, would we now, in his name, address ourselves unto thee:

OUR FATHER *who art in Heaven,*

We would draw near to thee, with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us.

Hallowed be thy name:

We beseech thee enable us and others to glorify thee, in all that whereby thou hast made thyself known, and dispose of all things to thine own glory.

Thy kingdom come:

We pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed, and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced. Let us and others be brought into it, and kept in it; and let the kingdom of glory be hastened.

Thy

Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven:

Make us, by thy grace, able and willing to know, obey, and submit to thy will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread:

Of thy free gift let us receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and let us enjoy thy blessing with them.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us:

We pray that, for Christ's sake, thou wouldst freely pardon all our sins, and that by thy grace thou wouldst enable us from the heart to forgive others.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

Either keep us, O Lord, from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever:

Lord, we take our encouragement, in prayer, from thyself only, and desire in our prayers to praise thee; ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to thee: And in testimony of our desires and assurance to be heard, (through Jesus Christ) we say, AMEN.

The LORD'S PRAYER *paraphrased by Dr.* Doddridge. Fam. Expos. Vol. I.

OUR Father, who art seated on a throne of glory *in* the highest *heaven;* while we bow down before thine awful presence with the humblest reverence, we would nevertheless approach thee with a filial confidence, as our bountiful and compassionate parent; uniting our supplications to thee, with hearts full of brotherly love, and asking for each other the blessings we seek for ourselves.

We

We would so remember our relation to thee, as to be above all things concerned for thy glory, and therefore make it our first petition—*May thy* illustrious *name be sanctified!* May the whole race of mankind, yea the whole world of intelligent creatures, pay that dutiful veneration to thy divine majesty which thy matchless perfections so justly demand. And for this purpose, *May thy kingdom* more perfectly *come*, which thy Son came to introduce among men: may it be established with greater efficacy, may its nature be more clearly discovered, and its interests be more resolutely pursued, by the professed subjects of it.

May thy will, which is always wise and always gracious, *be done, as in heaven, so likewise upon earth;* and may we mortals be taught to regard it with a resignation, acquiescence, and obedience, resembling that of the heavenly spirits.

As for ourselves, O Lord, we would not seek the great things of this life; we would not be anxious about its distant futurities; but humbly intreat thou wouldst open that

bountiful

bountiful hand on which we continually depend, and wouldst *give us this day our daily bread*: providing a competent supply for our present necessities, and teaching us to refer the rest to thy continual paternal care.

And though we have in many respects been disobedient children, yet we beseech thee, O most compassionate Father, to *forgive us our* offences, whereby we stand chargeable, as it were, in thy book, with *debts* which we can never clear: Yet do thou freely forgive them all, *as we also* desire to *forgive our debtors*: yea such pardon may we receive from thee our God as we are willing to impart to them.

And do not bring us into circumstances of pressing *temptation*, lest our virtue should be vanquished, and our souls endangered by them: *but* if we must be thus tried, do thou graciously *deliver us from* the power of *the evil one*, that he may not triumph in our sin and ruin. These things we know that thou canst do for thy children, and we are humbly bold to hope thou wilt do them for us.

For thine is the kingdom of universal nature, *and the* fulness of almighty *power, and the glory* of infinite perfection; and to thee be the praise of all ascribed *for ever. Amen.*

And now may the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all now and for ever. Amen.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

To be introduced in any of the preceding forms, upon the occurrences to which they are adapted.——— *N. B.* It may be proper for the person who reads the prayers previously to mark the places where any of these occasional petitions may most conveniently be introduced.

On the Birth of a Child.

WE bless thee, Father of mercies, for the late instance of thy goodness vouchsafed to this family. Adored be thy name, that in the time of danger and difficulty thou wast pleased to display thy saving power and mercy. We thank thee that thine handmaid is the living mother of a living and perfect child. Write a law of love and gratitude on our hearts for this fresh instance of thy providential care, and grant that the life which thou hast given, and the life which thou hast preserved, may be devoted unto thee, and be precious in thy sight.

Be pleased to perfect the mercy which thou hast begun, and speedily restore thine handmaid to health and strength; and grant

grant that every additional mercy may be considered and improved by us as an additional obligation to love and serve thee. May we and ours be the Lord's.

Here may properly be added any of the following petitions (which may also be used on other occasions).

For the Children of the Family.

O Lord our God, the God of the spirits of all flesh; all souls are thine: the souls of the parents, and the souls of the children are thine.

It is thy good providence which hath built us up into a family. We thank thee for the children which thou hast graciously given thy servants. We pray that thou who hast blessed us with them, wilt make them blessings to us.

We lament the corrupt nature which they derive from us. But we bless thee that there is a fountain opened for their cleansing, and that they were betimes dedicated to thee. Lord take them as members of thy family. They are thine; save them, and let them be owned as thine in that day when thou makest up thy jewels.

Give

Give them good capacities, and good dispositions of mind. Make them tractable, and willing to receive instruction. Incline them betimes to religion and virtue. Lord give them wisdom and understanding, and drive out the foolishness that is bound up in their hearts.

Save them from the vanity to which childhood and youth are subject. Fit them to live comfortably and usefully in the world. We ask not great things for them on earth. Give them, if it please thee, an healthful constitution of body; preserve them from evil accidents; and feed them with food convenient for them. But above all, we pray, that thou wilt pour out thy Spirit upon our seed, and thy blessing upon our offspring; that they may be a seed to serve thee, which shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. O give them that good part which shall never be taken from them.

Give us wisdom and grace to bring up our children in thy fear, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; with meekness and tenderness; and having them in subjection with gravity. Teach us, that we may teach them the things of God, as they are able to bear them. Dispose us to reprove,

reprove, and admonish, and when there is need, to correct them, in a proper manner. Help us to set them good examples of every thing that is virtuous and praise-worthy. Enable us so to train them up in the way they should go, that if they live to be old they may never depart from it.

Keep them from the snare of evil company and all the temptations of youth. Make them sensible how much it is their interest as well as duty to be religious betimes. And Lord grant, that none of them may be found at the left hand of Christ at the last day.

We earnestly pray that Christ may be formed in their hearts betimes, and that we may have the satisfaction of seeing our children walking in the truth, and setting their faces heavenwards.

Prosper the means of their education. Let all our children be taught of the Lord, and give them to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. May they from children know the holy scriptures, which are able to make them wise unto salvation. As far as they are taught the truth as it is in Jesus, may they continue in the things which they have learned.

It is our heart's desire and prayer, that our children may be praising God on earth, when we are gone to praise him in heaven; and that we and they may at last meet together there, to serve and enjoy thee for ever.

If it should please thee to remove any of them from us in their youth, give us grace submissively to resign them to thee, and let us have hope in their death. If thou shouldst see fit to take us from them while they are young, be thou a father to them, to teach and provide for them, O thou in whom the fatherless findeth mercy. Thou knowest our care concerning them; O enable us to cast it upon thee, believing that thou carest for them.

*Previous to the Baptism of a Child**.

WE adore thee, O gracious Father of mankind, that thou hast continued the human race in existence until now, and that still the sons and daughters of Adam continue to be born, and to replenish the earth. We bless thee for the addition

* This may be used by those who object to the baptism of Infants, on their dedication of them to God, omitting only the passage marked [ ].

which

which thou hast lately made to our family; and we pray that the child which thou hast given to thy servants may be spared as a blessing unto us, and may be acknowledged as one of thy children.

Encouraged by thy promise and covenant, we humbly give it up unto thee. Be thou graciously pleased to assist us in that solemn act of dedication in which we are about to engage. [Deliver us from formality and hypocrisy in celebrating the ordinance of baptism. Help us rightly to understand, and duly to attend to the meaning of this service.] May we ourselves be entirely thine own, and be enabled in sincerity and in faith to give up our little one unto thee, earnestly desiring that it may be a partaker of the peculiar blessings of thy gracious covenant, and firmly resolving, in the strength of thy grace, to train it up for thee. May thy presence be with us, and thy blessing upon us, in this solemn service, that so it may be made of great and lasting benefit to us and ours. Pour out thy Spirit upon our seed, and thy blessing upon our offspring, and grant that we and the child [children] thou hast given us, may be indeed members of thy spiritual family, and may be at last

last admitted to dwell together in thine house eternal in the heavens.

After the Baptism (or Dedication) of a Child.

ACCEPT, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, of the solemn act of devotion, in which we have lately been engaging, in dedicating our little one unto thee. Hear the prayers which have been presented to thee on the behalf of this child, and of all the members of our family. Help us to remember that the vows of God are upon us, and enable us conscientiously to fulfil them. Incline our hearts to attend to the instructions and exhortations which have been addressed to us, respecting our duty as Christians, as heads of a family, and as parents. Let us not be wanting in the use of any proper means for the temporal and eternal benefit of our offspring. May we diligently provide for those of our own house, and above all things may we be attentive to their immortal interests. Lord give us that wisdom and resolution which we so much need in the education of infant minds, and in the right government of the

family committed to our care. Whatever others do, may we and ours resolve to serve the Lord. May we command our children and household after us to keep thy ways. May thy grace assist, and thy blessings succeed us, in all our attempts for thy glory, and the eternal welfare of the precious souls committed to our trust. O may we be the honoured instruments of training up a godly seed, and of bringing many sons and daughters to glory.

Bless the child which we have lately been devoting to thee. O may it live before thee! If thou shouldst see fit to remove it in infancy, may we cheerfully resign it to thee, from whom we received it, remembering that the Lord who gave has a right to take it away. If its life should be spared, may it be a comfort to us, and a blessing to the world and church. O Lord preserve it from the snares of a wicked world into which it is born, early sanctify it by thy grace, and train it up for thine heavenly kingdom.

Bless the rising generation in general, and the children of this family in particular; grant that they may be a seed to serve thee; and at the last great day, may we meet them with comfort at the right hand

of

of Christ, saying, Lord, here are we and the children whom thou hast given us.

On the Death of a Child, or other Relative.

O Thou sovereign disposer of all events, we humbly acknowledge thy wisdom and righteousness in the breach which thou hast made in this family. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord. Support us, we pray thee, under this trial, and especially grant us the sanctified use of it. Teach us more effectually, by this stroke of thy providence, the vanity of human life, the uncertainty of our earthly comforts, our entire dependence upon thee, and the infinite value of thy favour, and of an interest in Jesus Christ, which alone can yield the soul solid support under the trials which await us in this vale of tears.

When creature-comforts fail, O may we be led nearer to thyself, the inexhaustible fountain. Promote in us an entire submission to thy wise and holy will, believing that thy judgments are right, and that it is in very faithfulness thou hast afflicted us. Wean our hearts more from this world, and quicken us in our preparation

for our departure out of it. Grant that all of us [and especially the young] may be suitably affected with the consideration of our frailty and mortality.

Since our dear deceased [child] [friend] cannot return to us, but we must soon go to [him] [her]; Lord grant that we may be prepared to follow, whenever the summons shall come. Help us to live as becometh dying, and yet immortal creatures; and O grant, that whatever painful separations death may make between any of us who now survive, we may all at last meet in that blessed world, where there is no more sorrow, nor crying, nor death, but where we shall for ever live and rejoice together in the presence of our God and Saviour.

When any one in the Family is sick.

MOST merciful Father, look down we beseech thee, with a compassionate eye, upon that member of our family on whom thou hast laid thine afflicting hand. Thou art the great physician of the body as well as the soul. Speak thou the word and [he] [she] shall be healed. Direct to the use of proper means, and let thy bless-

ing render them effectual [that so this sickness may not be unto death, but for thy glory.] Let health and strength be speedily restored, if it be thy blessed will, but especially we pray that the affliction may be sanctified. Let pain and disorder of body be made the means of health to the soul, that so thy servant may have cause to say, it was good for [him] [her] to be afflicted.

Particularly we pray that thou wilt give to [him] and us submission to thy holy will, and prepare us for the issue, whatever it may be. If thou shouldest see fit to take [him] out of this life, O Lord, fit [him] for another and better.

On the Recovery of any one from Sickness.

ACCEPT, O Lord, our grateful acknowledgments, for the kind appearance of thy providence on the behalf of one in this family, whom thou hast recovered from sickness [and raised from the borders of the grave. Thou killest and makest alive, thou woundest, and thou healest.] Make [him] whom thou hast restored, and all the members of this family, unfeignedly thankful for thy delivering mercy, and let [his] life and ours shew forth thy praise.

Grant that both the affliction and the mercy may be sanctified as the means of bringing [him] and us nearer to thyself, and quickening us in the great duties of life; and O prepare us for a dying hour whensoever it shall come. To us to live may it be Christ, and to die gain.

For one expecting the Time of Travail.

WE humbly entreat thy favourable regard towards thy handmaid expecting the hour of nature's sorrow. Be pleased to carry her safely to and through it. Help her to trust in thee, and do thou manifest thy delivering mercy, so as to give us renewed occasion to rejoice in thee as the God of salvation, to whom belong the issues from death. May every addition to this family be made in mercy, and do thou give us a name better than of sons and daughters.

For Direction in any important Concern.

O Thou God of wisdom and of love; we desire to acknowledge thee in all our ways. Be pleased, according to thine own word of promise, to direct our paths.

Shew

Shew us the way in which we should go, and help us to pursue such measures as shall be most for our comfort and usefulness, and for the glory of thy name. Prosper us, we intreat thee, in our undertaking, and give us the satisfaction to find that we have done what was right. Amidst all the intricate paths of life do thou guide us by thy counsel, and let integrity and uprightness ever preserve us, for we wait on thee.

For a young Person going from Home with a View to Business.

WE acknowledge thy providence, O God, in all that concerns the welfare of our family, and would commit to thy care the young person now about to leave it, in order to prepare for his future employment in life. We pray thee graciously to direct his steps. Let thy wisdom be his guide, and thy power his defence. Keep him from all the temptations to which his situation may expose him. Let integrity and uprightness preserve him. Give him favour with those among whom he shall reside, and make him faithful to the trust that shall be reposed in

him. May he be diligent in business, and at the same time fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Keep him from the snares of evil company, and from the influence of all youthful lusts. Fit him for an honourable and useful station in future life, and make him a blessing in the world and church. In all his gettings may he get understanding, and secure that better part which shall not be taken away from him.

For any going, or gone a Journey.

TO thy care and blessing, O God, we commit [such as have] [one who has] a journey in view [*or*, are upon a journey]. Graciously be pleased to keep [them] [him *or* her] from all the evils of the way. Grant them a comfortable interview with [their] friends, and return [them] in health and safety. Preserve us going out and coming in from this time forth and for ever; and especially keep us from sin.

[*If the journey be with a view to health.*]

Be pleased to bless the means used in order to the restoration and establishment of bodily health and strength; and grant especially that the soul may be in health and prosper.

On

On returning from a Journey in Safety.

PRAISED be thy goodness, O thou God of our lives, for the protection which thou hast afforded to [some] [one] of this family, amidst the dangers of travelling. Thou preservest man and beast. Make us duly sensible of our obligations to thy providential care, and do thou continue to watch over us at home and abroad; and grant that while we live and move and have our being in thee, we may live to thy praise. Preserve us in the great journey of life, and bring us safe to our eternal home.

On being preserved in Circumstances of imminent Danger.

O Thou kind Shepherd of Israel; unto thee we tender our unfeigned thanksgiving for the seasonable deliverance which thou hast wrought out for [one of] this family, in a time of imminent danger. In thy hand our breath is, and thine are all our ways: thou keepest our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. Help us ever to put our trust

in thee, and to consecrate the lives which thou hast preserved to thy service and honour.

For a Servant just come into the Family.

WE pray for the servant who is brought to reside in this house. May [he] [she] be faithful to us, and to thee; may [he] [she] diligently conform to the orders of this family, seriously attend the worship of it, and carefully improve every religious advantage to be here enjoyed, so as to have everlasting reason to bless God that [he] [she] was brought under our roof.

For a Servant going to leave the Family.

WE commend to thy blessing the servant who is about to leave this family. May [he] [she] be placed in such a situation as shall be for [his] real and spiritual good. Keep [him] from the temptations and snares to which [he] may be exposed. May [he] ever be faithful to [his] earthly masters, and above all seek to please thee [his] master in heaven.

Previous to the Celebration of the Lord's Supper; to be introduced in a Prayer for the Lord's Day Morning, at the place marked **.

GRACIOUS God, be with those of us who are going to celebrate the memorials of our Saviour's death at his table. The preparation of the heart in man is from thee the Lord. Work in us, we beseech thee, those dispositions of soul, and excite in us those holy and devout affections, which are suited to this ordinance.

May we find our hearts truly humbled for our sins; may we look on him whom we have pierced, and mourn; and may the blood of Christ, which speaketh better things than the blood of Abel, be sprinkled upon our consciences, to purge us from dead works.

May our fellowship be with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. Enable us cheerfully and unreservedly to give up ourselves unto thee, in the bonds of an everlasting covenant. Give us to feel the constraining influence of a Saviour's love, that so we may resolve henceforth to live unto him who died for us.

Help

Help us to cherish an ardent love towards all men, especially towards our christian brethren, and dispose us to forgive all that have trespassed against us, as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us. By waiting upon the Lord in his ordinances, may we renew our strength, and be quickened in our way to heaven. By the cross of Christ may the world be crucified to us, and may we be crucified to the world.

After receiving the Lord's Supper.

LORD, we bless thee for another opportunity for shewing forth the death of Christ at his table. Help us to remember the vows of God which are upon us, and make us diligent to fulfil them.

Enable us to live and act in a manner becoming the disciples of a crucified Master, that so others may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. O suffer us not to dishonour that worthy name by which we are called. Help us to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.

Make us watchful against all the occasions of sin, and the temptations to it.

Let

Let us not be conformed to the world, in its sinful customs and fashions, but may we be transformed in the renewing of our minds. As Christ died for our sins, may we be dying daily unto them; and as he rose again from the dead, may we arise to newness of life. By holding communion with Christ in his ordinances, O may we be advancing in our love and likeness to him, and be growing more and more meet for that blessed world whither he is gone, where we shall no more need these memorials of him, but shall see his face, and enjoy his love for ever.

At the Close or Beginning of a Year.

ETERNAL Jehovah, whose nature is unchangeable, and of whose years there is no end; we bless thee that, amidst all the vicissitudes and dangers to which we are subject, thou makest our lives thy care. Hitherto the Lord hath helped us. We desire this day to call to remembrance the years of the right hand of the Most High. Goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. We would now particularly call to mind the mercies of

of the last year. We are the living, the living to praise thee, as we do this day. Blessed be God for all the mercies, personal and relative, temporal and spiritual, with which the past year has been crowned.

To thy care, direction, and blessing we commit ourselves and each other for the following part of our lives, and especially for the year ensuing. We know not what even a day, and much less what a year, may bring forth: nor would we wish to know. It is enough for us to be assured that our times are in thy hands. There we cheerfully leave ourselves and all our concerns, praying and believing that thou wilt order all things wisely and graciously for us.

We pray, with submission to thy sovereign will, that thou wilt continue our lives, and preserve our health and comforts to the close of another year. But especially we pray that thou wilt prepare us for, and sanctify to us, the events of it, whatsoever they may be.

We would humbly lament the sins of the year past, as well as all the former sins of our lives. We beseech thee, of thine infinite mercy, to pardon them; and grant

grant us grace to watch and strive against the repetition of them. May all old things pass away, and all things become new.

We desire to begin the new year with God. We would afresh commit ourselves to thy care, and consecrate ourselves to thy service. And having done so, we desire cheerfully to refer all future events to thine infinite wisdom, and fatherly goodness.

As every year which passes brings us nearer to death and eternity, may it find us better prepared for our great change. We know not but this year may be our last: God grant that it may prove our best. If thou hast so decreed that this year any of us shall die, O grant that death may be no terror nor surprize to us. May we be dying daily to sin and the present world, so that whenever we finish this mortal life, we may enter upon that infinitely happy one which shall never end. May the close of every year, and every day, find us wiser and better; more happy in ourselves, more useful to others, and more meet for that world where days and years shall be unknown, and time shall be no more. In thy presence may we there all spend a blessed eternity!

The LORD'S PRAYER. *Matt.* vi. 9—13.

*OUR Father which [who] art in heaven—Hallowed be thy name—Thy kingdom come—Thy will be done * in earth as* it is *in heaven— Give us † this day our daily bread—And forgive us our ‡ debts, as we forgive our debtors—And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil—§ For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.* Amen.

VARIATIONS in *Luke* xi. 2—4.

* —as in heaven, so in earth. † —day by day. ‡ —sins, for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. § No doxology.

From these variations, it is evident, the Lord's Prayer is not to be considered by us as a prescribed form, much less as necessary to be used at all times. But there can be no impropriety in adopting it occasionally, with other passages of scripture, or of frequently closing our prayers with it, as a summary of our desires. In so doing, it would be proper sometimes to introduce the above variations.

SCRIP-

SCRIPTURE-DOXOLOGIES.

THERE have been warm disputes among professing Christians concerning the manner of concluding prayers. Certain doxologies of mere human device have, by some, been considered as needful tests of soundness in the faith, and essential to right worship.

For the sake of those who think *the words which the Holy Ghost teacheth*, are preferable to those which *man's wisdom teacheth*, the following SCRIPTURE-DOXOLOGIES are here subjoined, which are the principal, if not the only ones, to be found in the Bible, which is a perfect rule of worship, as well as of faith and practice.

To God the Father.

FOR thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen. *Matt.* vi. 13.

OF him, and through him, and to him, are all things; to whom be glory for ever. Amen. *Rom.* xi. 36.

Now

Now to him that is of power to establish [you] [*us*] according to [the] gospel, —to God only wise, be glory, through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. *Rom.* xvi. 25, 27.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God, *even* our Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. *Gal.* i. 4, 5.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. *Eph.* iii. 20, 21.

Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever. Amen. 1 *Tim.* i. 17.

Now unto him that is able to keep [you] [*us*] from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy: to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. *Jude* 24, 25.

Amen.

AMEN. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. *Rev.* vii. 2.

To Jesus Christ.

THROUGH Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. *Heb.* xiii. 21.

THAT God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 1 *Pet.* iv. 2.

OUR Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 *Pet.* iii. 18.

JESUS CHRIST, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth; unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. *Rev.* i. 4, 5.

WORTHY is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom,

and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. *Rev.* v. 12.

To God, and to Jesus Christ.

BLESSING, honour, glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. *Rev.* v. 13.

SALVATION to our God which sittèth on the throne, and unto the Lamb. *Rev.* vii. 10.

To the Holy Spirit.

" THERE is not any one plain and ex-
" press instance in all the scriptures of a
" doxology directly and distinctly ad-
" dressed to the Holy Spirit.—I am not
" willing to say, there is an absolute ne-
" cessity of using any doxology which has
" no pattern or precept in scripture.——
" Is it not better to follow the express
" directions and examples of scripture,
" and imitate the inspired apostles, those
" first and most glorious Christians?"
Dr. WATTS's *Dissert.* p. 151, 152. *Christ. Doct. of Trin.* p. 223, 232. and other places.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

IT is earnestly recommended to those who worship God in their families, that they read a portion of scripture, though ever so short, before prayer. It would be well also if they would, frequently at least, (and especially on the Lord's Day) sing a few verses of a psalm or hymn. This would be very engaging to the younger branches of families, who, by this means, would become proficients in the art of psalmody, and thus be trained up to join with advantage in the public praises of the church, for which too many, in our congregations, are sadly unqualified. It is greatly to the reproach of most of our schools, that, while every other agreeable accomplishment is cultivated, the divine art of singing the praises of God is neglected; in consequence of which the beauty and pleasure of social worship are greatly diminished.

See Mr. Matthew Henry's Preface to his Family-Hymns. *Also Dr. Stennett's excellent* Discourses on Domestic Duties, p. 119, 120.

THE END.

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